



## Breast Biopsy

If you notice a lump or change in your breast, a biopsy may be needed. A biopsy may also be needed if you have an abnormal mammogram and breast cancer can't be ruled out. A biopsy removes cells or tissue from the breast. This is the only way to find out if you have breast cancer. If you need to have a biopsy, don't panic. Having a biopsy can be scary, but keep in mind most biopsies done in the U.S. do not show cancer.

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**Q:** What type of biopsy will I have? Will the entire lump be removed or just part of it?

**A:**

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**Q:** If you are recommending a needle/core biopsy, why? How accurate is this type of biopsy?

**A:**

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**Q:** Who will do the biopsy?

**A:**

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**Q:** How long will the biopsy take? Will I be awake? Will I feel anything?

**A:**

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**Q:** Will I be able to go home the same day I have the biopsy?

**A:**

**Q:** Should I avoid any medicines before the biopsy and for how long? When can I start taking my usual medicines?

**A:**

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**Q:** Will the biopsy leave a scar?

**A:**

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**Q:** What are the possible side effects of the biopsy? How long will they last? What problems should I report to you (i.e., tenderness, pain, numbness along the scar)?

**A:**

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**Q:** When will I be able to do my normal activities?

**A:**

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**Q:** After the biopsy, how soon will I get the results?

**A:**

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**Q:** If I have cancer, who will talk with me about my treatment options?

**A:**



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

[komen.org](http://komen.org)

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