

BREAST BIOPSY



STEREOTACTIC, ULTRASOUND AND MRI-GUIDED BIOPSIES

When an abnormality is discovered on a breast imaging test like a mammogram or breast ultrasound, it may be necessary to perform a biopsy of the tissue within the breast to confirm—or rule out—breast cancer.

More than one million American women have breast biopsies every year. Fortunately, only about 20% of these biopsies confirm a breast cancer finding.

In the past, biopsies were performed surgically, requiring anesthesia and an incision into the breast that resulted in a painful recovery and scarring. Thanks to advances in technology, the biopsy procedures we offer today are safer, far less invasive, and less uncomfortable.

The Benefits of Image-Guided Biopsy

You already know that diagnostic imaging is used to find abnormalities or disease in the body... but it can also be used to guide a biopsy needle to the exact spot where tissue needs to be evaluated.

During an image-guided biopsy procedure, a specially trained radiologist uses an imaging modality (x-ray/ stereotactic, ultrasound or MRI) to precisely guide a very thin needle into the breast and to the area in question. A small amount of tissue is then removed for further evaluation in a laboratory.



Preparing for a Breast Biopsy

- Please let us know if you take blood thinners (Plavix, Coumadin, Heparin, etc.) or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (Advil/ibuprofen, Aleve, Motrin, etc.).
- Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit.
- Do not use deodorant, perfume, powder or lotions on or near your breast on the day of your biopsy.
- If having an MRI-guided biopsy, do not wear metal of any kind, such as jewelry. Please inform us if you have a pacemaker or other implanted metal device.

Following the procedure, the area where the needle was inserted will receive antiseptic and a band-aid. Unless told otherwise by your physician, you are free to return to work or other normal activities. You may experience some soreness. You should avoid strenuous activity and heavy lifting for the remainder of the day.

At RIS, we perform all three types of breast biopsy procedures. The biopsy you will have depends on a number of factors, including which imaging test initially found the abnormality, whether it is clearly visible, or its size.

Stereotactic Biopsy

A stereotactic biopsy is generally performed on calcifications within the breast. These are typically initially found with a mammogram, which is an x-ray based test, and is generally well seen with the x-ray technology used in a stereotactic biopsy. During a stereotactic biopsy, the patient lies face down on a special table and the breast is gently guided through an opening in the table. X-ray images are used to help the doctor guide the biopsy needle.



MRI-Guided Biopsy

An MRI-guided biopsy is performed when the suspicious area is not well seen with either x-ray or ultrasound. MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging and uses a powerful magnet, radio waves and a sophisticated computer to generate highly detailed images of breast tissue. During the procedure, the patient lies face down on the MRI table which is then slid into position within the machine. The doctor uses the images to determine the position and depth of the abnormality, and to precisely guide the biopsy needle.



A small marking “clip” may be placed at the site of the biopsy within the breast. This is so the site can be easily located if further intervention, such as surgery, is needed.

Ultrasound-Guided Biopsy

An ultrasound-guided biopsy is most often used when the breast abnormality is visible on ultrasound. During the procedure, the patient lies on their back while the doctor uses an ultrasound transducer to confirm the location of the suspicious area. The images generated by the ultrasound are then used to guide the biopsy needle.



The advantages of having your breast biopsy at a RIS center



Save Time

Breast biopsy can be performed soon after your diagnostic test, saving you the hassle and anxiety of waiting weeks to learn your results.



Save Cost

Biopsies performed at RIS outpatient centers are significantly less expensive. This can save you money on insurance co-pays or deductibles, and if you're uninsured, the test is far more affordable.



Superior Service

RIS centers are known for their exceptional patient service. This includes flexible scheduling, shorter wait times, fast results and a caring, compassionate staff.

BREAST IMAGING EXPERTISE AT RIS

Radiology & Imaging Specialists is among Central Florida's leading providers of diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology services. We offer some of the most experienced professionals at performing 3D mammography, breast MRI, breast ultrasound, and automated whole breast ultrasound (an excellent supplemental screening option for women with dense breasts), as well as a full range of breast biopsy services.

Our mission is to provide our patients and the physicians who care for them with the most accurate, reliable, professional and courteous services utilizing the latest and most advanced radiology and imaging technology.

For more information, or to schedule your appointment, please call one of our locations below:



womens-imaging.com

RIS
RADIOLOGY AND IMAGING SPECIALISTS

at 
Lakeland Regional Health

ris-lrh.com

To schedule, please call (863) 577-8610.