

MAGEE-WOMENS IMAGING

MRI-GUIDED BREAST BIOPSY

Before undergoing an MRI-guided breast biopsy, we understand that you may have questions. Aside from providing you with the best possible diagnostic examination, we also are dedicated to educating you on your procedure. Below are helpful facts about MRI-guided breast biopsy for your reference.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an advanced, state-of-the-art medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to produce a detailed image of the breast and its internal structures.

MRI-guided biopsy is a low-risk procedure performed by board-certified physicians. Using MRI imaging to guide a small needle into the breast, the physician can pinpoint suspicious areas and remove cells from the area of concern. The cells are then sent to a specialized team in the laboratory to determine if further treatment is required.

What should I know before my MRI-guided breast biopsy?

- If your physician refers you for an MRI-guided breast biopsy, it is important to stop taking blood thinners, including aspirin or aspirin products seven days prior to your biopsy.
- You may eat and drink and take your other medications as usual on the day of the appointment.
- To avoid the risk of complications, inform the technologist if you are pregnant (or think you may be pregnant), if you are allergic to MRI contrast, or have kidney disease.
- If you think you may be claustrophobic, ask your doctor to prescribe medication prior to your exam.
- In the case that you do receive medication, it is suggested that you bring someone to drive you home.
- No metal is allowed in the MRI room. Safety pins, straight pin, metal hair pins, and all jewelry must be removed before entering the exam room.
- Let your technologist know if you have metal rods, hip replacement, or a pacemaker.
- If your occupation includes metal work, such as a welder or grinder, please inform the staff when scheduling the exam.

What is involved in an MRI-guided breast biopsy procedure?

On the day of the exam, you will have a dedicated breast imaging radiologist explain the process to you prior to your biopsy.

- You will lie on your stomach on a cushioned bed with your breasts positioned within a padded cutout.
- A certified technologist will inject contrast through an IV into your arm. No radiation is used.
- The bed is moved into the magnet for the exam. You will hear a muffled thumping sound that will last several minutes. The technologist will give you ear plugs to help block out the noise.
- Using MRI-imaging as a guide to pinpoint the area of concern, the physician will perform a minimally invasive procedure to remove cells from this breast tissue.
- A follow-up mammogram will be taken after the biopsy.
- The procedure will last about 45 to 60 minutes.

How will I feel after my breast biopsy?

Most women are able to resume normal activity shortly after a needle biopsy; however, it is not uncommon to feel mild pain or discomfort. You may experience some bruising of the area that should resolve in seven to 10 days.

How will I get my biopsy results?

We understand that waiting for the results can be an unnerving experience. During this time it is important to remember that most breast biopsies turn out to be non-cancerous. The nurse will call to inform you of the results of the biopsy as soon as the results are received from the pathology department. This usually takes two to four business days after the biopsy. If your biopsy is positive, you should discuss follow-up care and treatment with your physician.

For more information about your procedure at Magee-Womens Imaging, or to schedule an appointment, call **1-800-649-4077** or visit **UPMC.com/MageeSees**.

