Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

Advice following a breast core biopsy

Breast core biopsy and post procedure care

It has been necessary to perform a core biopsy today, which is a minor diagnostic procedure and involves taking a small piece of breast tissue.

A small incision, approximately 3 to 5mm long, has been made on the breast from where the biopsy was taken. Steri-strips (paper strips) have been applied to this area, followed by a waterproof dressing. Keep the dressing as clean and dry as possible for the first 2 to 3 days. After this, you may remove the dressing and paper strips; no further dressings are then necessary on the biopsy site.

If you take blood - thinning medication (e.g. aspirin, clopidogrel, apixiban or warfarin), you may need to stop taking them for a short time after the procedure, as they can increase the risk of bruising or bleeding at the site of the biopsy. The Radiologist will discuss this with you before you go home.

It is common to see some bruising at the biopsy site and this will fade in 1 to 2 weeks.

Bleeding or swelling is rare, but if it does happen, please follow these instructions:

- Remove the dressing from the biopsy site
- Cover the biopsy site with tissues, paper kitchen towel or a clean tea towel and **press firmly** using the flat of your hand for **15 minutes**
- If the bleeding or swelling continues **for more than 15 minutes, you should go to your local Emergency department/Minor Injuries Unit, taking this information sheet with you.**

Infection

On rare occasions an infection of the biopsy site can occur. If you think you may have any signs of infection i.e. a raised temperature, the skin is bright red and hot to touch, please contact the **Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist on 01225 824057 or NHS111 (if out of hours).** If you require antibiotics they will be prescribed.

Will you feel pain?

The local anaesthetic, which was given at the time of the biopsy, will wear off after 2 to 3 hours. If your breast feels uncomfortable or painful, take a mild painkiller such as paracetamol and wear a supportive bra. **Avoid taking medication that contains ibuprofen or aspirin for the first 24 hours after the biopsy**, as these can cause extra bruising in the breast.

Results and follow up appointment

The samples are taken to the laboratory for analysis and you will be given or sent an appointment to discuss the results either in the Breast Clinic or by telephone, 1 to 2 weeks later. If you do not receive an appointment, please contact the **Breast Clinical Nurse Specialists on 01225 824057 or Breast Unit Reception Desk on 01225 825881(Monday to Friday).**

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If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.

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