



THE PATIENT GUIDE TO STEREOTACTIC BIOPSY

- *Stereotactic Breast Biopsies* represent a new, nonsurgical way to accurately sample tissue from a suspected abnormality found on mammogram.
- Spares most women the discomfort and scarring associated with a surgical biopsy. Compared to surgery, this procedure is quicker, less painful and less costly. There are fewer complications and the procedure requires minimal recovery time.

The stereotactic biopsy table is a long table with a hole cut-out in it. We will ask you to place yourself (or assist you) on the table, on your stomach, with the breast that will have the biopsy suspended through the hole. You will be kept as comfortable as possible as we position you to obtain the best view of the biopsy site. Your breast will be compressed like a mammogram during the procedure.

When it is time for the biopsy, the surgeon will clean the area first. The next step is a “bee sting” injection of Lidocaine to start numbing the area. Lidocaine is the “local” anesthesia used throughout the process to numb your breast.

Remaining still during the procedure is extremely important. If you need to cough or sneeze please let the staff know so we can pause and make certain your position has not changed. Several pictures or images of the area will be taken throughout the procedure as we guide you through the stereotactic biopsy experience. When the procedure is over, the area treated will be cleansed, pressure will be applied to halt any bleeding, and adhesive strips will be placed over the site to close the tiny opening made during the biopsy.

We ask that you sit-up slowly from the table when you are done and have a mammogram of the biopsied breast. All of your instructions for home care will be reviewed with you and a copy will be given to you to take home. We will answer any questions you may have prior to your leaving.

Typically biopsy results are available from your surgeon in two to four days.

Your health and welfare are very important to us. If you have any questions after reading this information and would like a Registered Nurse from Interventional Radiology to contact you, please call (401) 596-6000 and request extension 4106.