

Ultrasound Guided Vacuum Assist Breast Biopsy



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What is a Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy?

Ultrasound imaging or sonography uses sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the breast. Ultrasound exams do not use radiation. A radiologist uses ultrasound guidance to sample a breast mass.

With a vacuum assisted device, vacuum pressure is used to pull tissue from the breast through the needle into the sampling chamber. Without withdrawing and reinserting the needle, it collects additional samples.

CPT Code 19103

Additional CPT Codes Used: (19295 clip placement, 76098 surgical specimen, 76942 ultrasound guidance, 76095 stereotactic guidance, G0204 and G0206 for unilateral and bilateral (respectively) follow-up mammograms to verify clip placement)

Indications

suspicious breast mass detected on breast ultrasound or by exam

Contraindications

Current aspirin, ibuprofen, warfarin, or heparin use are a relative contraindication and will be discussed prior to the procedure.

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Patient should wear a loose fitting two-piece outfit.

She does not need a driver.

She should plan to be off work the day of the procedure, but can return to normal activities the following day.

Ibuprofen or aspirin therapy should be discontinued **3 days prior** to the biopsy.

Warfarin or heparin therapy should be discontinued **7 days prior** to the biopsy.

Referring physician to have the following bloodwork drawn within **24 hours prior** to the biopsy: PT, PTT and INR.

What Happens During the Test?

Your patient will be asked to disrobe from the waist up and will be provided a gown or blanket. She is positioned lying face-up on the examination table. The radiologist uses ultrasound guidance to image the breast mass.

The patient's breast is cleansed with antiseptic soap. The skin and tissue around the mass are numbed with lidocaine.

A needle is inserted which uses a vacuum powered instrument to collect multiple tissue samples during one needle insertion. The needle is removed and a small marking clip is placed in area biopsied which will identify the site for future reference. The patient's skin will be covered with either dermabond or steri-strips to protect the biopsy site and promote healing.

Following the procedure, a mammogram is performed to ensure proper placement of the clip.

The procedure takes approximately 90 minutes to complete.

After the Test

Your patient will be sent home with an ice pack, steri strips, and post procedure instructions. The site will be tender for a few days and bruising will likely be present. Most women experience a mild to moderate ache, which is usually controlled by an ice compress and acetaminophen. She should not engage in any strenuous activities and get plenty of rest. She may bathe the morning after the biopsy, being careful not to soak or scrub the biopsy site.

When to notify us:

If she is bleeding 24 hours after the biopsy. Some blood should be present on the bandage at first, but it should decrease throughout the day. If a constant flow of blood occurs, apply firm pressure to the site for 15-20 minutes. Call us if the condition persists.

If there are signs of infection in the first two weeks. This would include a whitish discharge, increasing redness and swelling of the skin or fever. While some redness at the site is normal, she should be aware of these changes.

The Results

Samples are sent to an independent pathologist. Patients are contacted by a radiologist within 48 hours. Referring physicians are contacted within 48 hours by phone results requiring a surgical referral. In addition, a signed report will be sent to the physician within 24-48 hours.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Jill Westercamp)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.