

# Breast Biopsy



**RHODE ISLAND  
MEDICAL IMAGING**

401.432.2548  
[www.rimirad.com](http://www.rimirad.com)



## What is a Breast Biopsy?

While the majority of breast abnormalities are benign, a breast biopsy might still be necessary. A biopsy is the removal of small fragments of tissue with a specially designed needle. A surgical biopsy (removal of the abnormality) may be necessary in some patients, depending on the results of this procedure.

## Preparation

On the day of your procedure, please wear comfortable clothes and a bra. You may eat and/or drink liquids on the day of the biopsy as fasting is not necessary for this procedure.

## Procedure

The test is performed in the breast imaging center by RIMI doctors. Breast biopsy is performed with the aid of ultrasound or mammography. This allows the radiologist to determine the exact location of the abnormality in your breast and accurately remove tissue samples for evaluation.

The radiologist administers numbing medicine into the skin (local anesthesia). A biopsy needle is then inserted through a tiny incision which will heal without a stitch. A clip will be placed at the biopsy site. A mammogram is done after the clip placement.

You will be in the breast imaging center for about 1-2 hours. The results of the biopsy are usually available from your doctor within a week.

## Post Breast Biopsy Instructions

- 1) A bandage will be applied to the biopsy site after the procedure. The bandage may stay in place and be replaced as needed.
- 2) An ice pack will be applied to the breast to relieve any swelling or bruising after the procedure. In preparation for your procedure, you may want to have an additional ice pack at home.
- 3) You may notice bruising in the area of the biopsy which should resolve in five to seven days.
- 4) For the first 24 hours, do not bathe or shower the area of the breast biopsy. Keep this area as dry as possible.
- 5) You may use the pain reliever of your choice as needed for discomfort.
- 6) After 24 hours, you may resume your regular activities. Swimming should be avoided until the wound heals.
- 7) There are two uncommon complications to watch for after the procedure:
  - A) Bleeding – If bleeding occurs, it may develop within the first 24 hours. If you should notice any bleeding through the dressing, apply pressure for 20 minutes.
  - B) Infection – If infection occurs, it may not develop until 48 to 72 hours after the procedure. Signs to watch for are: redness or heat around the incision, excessive swelling, tenderness and drainage.

If these conditions exist, please call our mammography coordinators at **401.432.2548**. If it is after hours, you should call your doctor.

## APPOINTMENT

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Rhode Island Medical Imaging** *Breast Imaging Centers:*

#### **ATWOOD MEDICAL CENTER**

1526 Atwood Avenue  
Lower Level, Suite LL3  
Johnston, RI 02919

#### **GREENWICH MEDICAL CENTER**

1351 South County Trail  
Building 1, Suite 100  
East Greenwich, RI 02818

#### **METACOMET OFFICE PARKWAY**

450 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
Building 2, Suite 203  
East Providence, RI 02914

#### **MOSHASSUCK MEDICAL CENTER**

1 Randall Square  
Lower Level, Suite 103  
Providence, RI 02904



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