

Schedule your appointment with Charlotte Radiology

Your physician or someone from Charlotte Radiology will schedule your appointment for you. Appointments are scheduled Monday through Friday. In order to allow time for patient registration, we ask that you arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled exam time.

704.367.2232 • toll-free 877.362.2232

For more information

If you have questions about any of our procedures or for directions, please visit our comprehensive website:

www.charlotteradiology.com

May we also suggest:

www.breastcancer.org
www.cancer.org
www.cancer.gov
www.komen.org

CharlotteRadiology
Breast Center

The following locations offer needle biopsy:

CMC-Morrocroft
4525 Cameron Valley Parkway, Suite 1000
Charlotte, NC 28211
704.365.0343

CMC-Northcross
16455 Statesville Road, Suite 110
Huntersville, NC 28078
704.895.3445

CMC-Union Medical Plaza
1550 Faulk Street, Suite 1200
Monroe, NC 28112
704.292.2272

Medical Center Plaza
1001 Blythe Boulevard, Suite 103
Charlotte, NC 28203
704.355.6200

Morehead Medical Plaza
1025 Morehead Medical Drive, Suite 150
Charlotte, NC 28204
704.831.4200

Pineville Medical Plaza
10650 Park Road, Suite 280
Charlotte, NC 28210
704.540.9299

University Medical Park
101 W.T. Harris Boulevard, Suite 2122-A
Charlotte, NC 28262
704.863.6148

www.charlotteradiology.com

CharlotteRadiology
Breast Center



Needle Biopsy

providing the perfect balance of health and spirit.

Confirmation and comfort from the area's imaging experts

At Charlotte Radiology, we realize a needle biopsy may be an emotionally stressful experience. But even more importantly, we know biopsies are the only definitive way to confirm if breast tissue is benign or cancerous. Our radiologists and technologists have been trained to make this safe, minimally invasive procedure, as comfortable and quick as possible—from our waiting room to the patient room, and all the way to the comfort of your living room.

Our group is consistently the first in the area to offer the latest procedures, thanks to access to the most innovative technologies. In fact, we were the first to perform stereotactic breast biopsies in Charlotte and we are the only center currently offering a MRI dedicated to breast imaging; which is all part of our goal to provide patients with the best possible experience.

Needle biopsy of the breast

During a needle biopsy, small amounts of breast tissue from the abnormal lesion are removed through a needle and then studied under a microscope by a pathologist, who provides a diagnosis.

A needle biopsy is performed with a local anesthetic and minimal discomfort. No stitches are required and most women can resume normal daily activities immediately.

There are various methods by which a needle biopsy can be performed:

- **Ultrasound-guided biopsy:** This technique is most often used to guide a biopsy when a breast abnormality is visible on ultrasound. During this procedure, you will lie on your back or turn slightly to the side. Local anesthetic is injected to ensure that you will be comfortable. The radiologist then creates a small nick in the skin through which the biopsy needle will be inserted, and several samples of tissue will be obtained for evaluation. The technologist assisting you will provide you with an ice pack and post biopsy care instructions.

- **Stereotactic breast biopsy:** For lesions that are more conspicuous on mammography than on ultrasound, such as breast calcifications, this biopsy utilizes x-ray images (mammograms) of the breast tissue to guide the biopsy needle to the area of interest. This procedure requires you to be positioned lying face down on a table designed specifically for breast biopsies. Your breasts are positioned through an opening in the table and then we clean the skin and inject a local anesthetic. A tiny incision less than a quarter of an inch is made. Then the radiologist will remove several samples of tissue through this incision. In certain cases a small, titanium marking clip may be left at the biopsy site so that it can be easily relocated for surgery or follow up, if needed.
- **MR-guided biopsy:** This procedure is the latest development in diagnosing breast cancer and is useful when an ultrasound or stereotactic-guided biopsy is not appropriate because the area of concern is not well seen by mammogram or ultrasound, but is discovered or is most conspicuous on MRI. During an MR-guided biopsy, a local anesthetic is injected into the breast to numb it and contrast material is given intravenously. You will be positioned face down on your stomach and your breasts will be positioned into a cushioned opening containing a special breast-imaging coil. You will enter the machine head first. Using computer software, the radiologist determines the position and depth of the lesion for biopsy. When the tissue sampling is complete, a small marking clip will be left at the site of biopsy, so it can be easily located for future follow up or surgery.

Preparing for your needle biopsy

- Allow up to 90 minutes for your appointment.
- If you would like, ask a relative or friend join you and lend support on the drive home.
- Please do not take aspirin or Ibuprofen for 5-7 days prior to biopsy.
- Prior to your appointment, please let the staff know if you are taking any blood thinners.
- Please wear a supportive bra to help maintain the post-biopsy dressing. It is helpful to wear a two-piece outfit, preferably one that buttons up the front.
- Eat a light snack or meal 1-2 hours before your appointment.

After your appointment

Biopsy samples are sent to a pathologist, who will analyze and provide your physician and Charlotte Radiology with a diagnosis. **You will be notified of results within several days of your biopsy appointment.**

- Do not participate in any strenuous activity for 48 hours.
- You may take only Tylenol for discomfort for the first 48 hours. After that time you may take aspirin or Ibuprofen (Advil, Nuprin, Motrin).
- You will be given an ice pack to place inside of your bra and will need to wear it for at least 4 hours.
- You are also asked to sleep in your bra for the next two nights.
- The outer dressing may be removed after 24 hours.
- Do not get the area wet, until the dressing is removed.
- If excessive bleeding, pain, or fever occurs, contact our office.