

*Schedule your appointment with
Charlotte Radiology.*

Any and all breast health concerns should be discussed with your primary physician first. Our breast services are completely comprehensive, from diagnostic mammography and breast MRI to needle biopsy and more.

For annual screening mammograms, no physician's referral is required. And breast experts still agree that 40 is the age to start. **Please make a point to schedule screening mammograms every year, and urge all of the women in your life to do the same.**

704.367.2232

877.362.2232 (toll-free)

For more information about Charlotte Radiology,
visit us online at CharlotteRadiology.com.



NEEDLE BIOPSY

Screening Saves.

What is needle biopsy of the breast?

Biopsies are the only definitive way to confirm whether breast tissue is benign or cancerous.

During a needle biopsy, small amounts of breast tissue from an 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.

Needle biopsy can be performed in a variety of ways:

ULTRASOUND-GUIDED BIOPSY. This technique is most often used when a breast abnormality is visible on ultrasound. During this procedure, the patient will lie on her back or turn slightly to the side. Local anesthetic is injected to ensure comfort. The radiologist then creates a small nick in the skin through which the biopsy needle will be inserted, and several samples of tissue are obtained for evaluation. The technologist provides an ice pack and post-biopsy instructions.

STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY. For lesions that are better visualized on mammography, such as breast calcifications, this biopsy utilizes x-ray images of the breast tissue to guide the biopsy needle to the area of interest. This procedure requires the patient to be facedown on a table designed specifically for breast biopsies. The breasts are positioned through an opening in the table, at which point the skin is cleaned and a local anesthetic is injected. The radiologist makes a tiny incision and removes several samples of tissue. In certain cases a small titanium marking clip may be left at the biopsy site for easy relocation in surgery or follow-up, if needed.

MR-GUIDED BIOPSY. MR-guided biopsy is most useful when a suspicious area is not well seen by a mammogram or ultrasound, but is discovered or most conspicuous on MRI. During this procedure, a local anesthetic is injected into the breast, and

contrast material is given intravenously. The patient lies facedown with the breasts positioned into a cushioned opening that contains a special breast-imaging coil. The patient enters the machine headfirst. Using computer software, the radiologist determines the position and depth of the lesion for biopsy and obtains the necessary samples. A small marking clip will be left at the site of biopsy, facilitating easy location 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 friend to join you and lend support on the drive home.
- 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.
- Wear a supportive bra to help maintain the post-biopsy dressing.
- Wear a two-piece outfit, preferably one that zips or 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. Your physician will contact you with results.

- Do not participate in any strenuous activity for 48 hours.
- Only Tylenol may be taken for discomfort for the first 48 hours. After that aspirin or ibuprofen may be taken.
- An ice pack will be provided for placement inside the bra. This must be worn for at least four hours.
- Patients must sleep in a bra for the first 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.

