



## Tampa Bay Breast Care Specialists

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### *Stereo Guided Breast Core Biopsy*

A stereo guided biopsy is a procedure done when the mass or questionable breast area cannot be seen with ultrasound. These are done out of the office and is an outpatient procedure. A special machine takes pictures of the breast tissue from different angles which are then combined to form a very accurate image of the area in question. This completed image helps the doctor get an exact site to biopsy. After samples are taken, the imagery is repeated to make sure that all margins and areas needed to be sampled have been removed. These samples are then sent to be tested for malignancy. Here is some general information about the procedure and what to expect.

#### *Preparing for surgery day:*

- Make sure you have someone that can drive you home after surgery since you will be put under twilight anesthesia.
- Refrain from eating or drinking anything after midnight before your surgery, unless otherwise specified by your doctor.
- We suggest wearing clothing that is loose and comfortable, as well as a sports bra or a front closure bra.

#### *At the surgery facility:*

- You will have a designated time to arrive at the surgery center to check in and go through a preoperative assessment before your scheduled procedure.
- The procedure typically lasts an hour. The doctor will come out to speak with your part to let them know how you are doing afterwards.
- You should be released within 24 hours unless your physician deems otherwise.

#### *What to expect after surgery:*

- You will need to come in for a post-op evaluation. Call the office to make this appointment after you come home from surgery.
- We receive results between 3-5 business days after surgery. Your doctor will go over your results during your post-op visit.
- Write down any questions you come up with so you can discuss them with your doctor during your post-op visit.

#### *About your wound:*

- You will be given a sheet on how to care for your incision.
- It is normal to have a small amount of bleeding, swelling, and bruising around the incision site.
- The steri-strip directly underneath the bandage needs to stay on for at least 48 hours. You can remove this strip in the shower so you do not pull off the scab.
- Pending on the type of surgery, you should be able to resume normal, non-strenuous activity the day after your surgery. Do not lift anything heavier than 5 pounds for 72 hours after surgery. You should wait until after you see your physician to make sure you can go back to aerobic or strength exercise.
- On most occasions, the only type of pain medication you need would be Tylenol, but the physician may prescribe you pain medication as well.

## Stereo Guided Breast Core Biopsy Continued

*About your wound continued...*

- If you decide to take prescription pain medication, you may add one regular-strength Tylenol. DO NOT exceed one Tylenol, since this is a popular prescription pain ingredient and we do not want you do to overdose.
- Please be advised that taking prescription pain medications can alter your judgment and you should refrain from operating heavy machinery.

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### *Authorization of Procedures and Billing*

When we schedule your surgery, we will call your insurance company to verify coverage and get authorization. If we have any issue obtaining authorization, we will call you immediately. If you decide to pay out of pocket or if your insurance does not cover, our billing department will give you an estimation of how much your procedure will cost, as well as make payment arrangements. We are only responsible for the billing of the surgery our surgeon performs, so keep in mind that depending on the complexity of your situation, you may receive bills from the surgical facility where the surgery takes place, the radiologist, and the pathologist, just to name a few.

You should contact our office if you experience any of the following:

- You have a fever over 101.5 during the first week after surgery.
- Your wound feels tight and you are experiencing extreme pain.
- Your breast is extremely bruised other than around the surgical site.
- You are experiencing excessive nausea and/or vomiting.
- Blood continues to leak from your dressing. While you are trying to contact us, use a towel to hold firm pressure on your wound.

If your situation becomes a life-threatening or emergency situation, please call 911 or go straight to the Emergency Room. Please notify us so we may assist you and care for your needs.