

Breast Biopsy Can Detect Cancer

If your doctor finds a lump or a suspicious area in the breast, they may recommend that you get a **breast biopsy**. A biopsy removes cells or tissues from the breast to check for cancer. The sample is sent to a laboratory for testing.

There are several breast biopsy procedures. Your doctor will recommend the type of biopsy for you based on your situation.



Needle Biopsy

• Fine Needle Biopsy

A thin needle is used to take cells or fluid from the suspicious area. Your doctor may use a local anesthetic to block pain. This is a fast and simple procedure.

• Core Needle Biopsy

This is similar to a fine needle biopsy, but with a slightly larger needle. Your doctor may use X-ray equipment, ultrasound, or MRI to locate the area of concern. You will get local anesthesia.

Needle biopsy procedures can be done in a clinic. You can go home after the procedure and resume normal activities. The biopsy site may have bruising, bleeding, and swelling that will go away after a few days. You may take medication to relieve pain.

Surgical Biopsy

A surgeon will remove part of or all of the breast lump. You will get local or general anesthesia.

You can go home on the same day as the procedure. Keep any area with stitches clean and dry. You may take medication to relieve pain. Refrain from strenuous physical activities.

Understanding the Results

- **Negative:** Cells are not cancerous, but you may need follow-up or receive treatment to make sure cells do not turn cancerous.
- **Positive:** Cells are cancerous. Your doctor will help you determine the next steps based on the nature of the cancer cells.



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