Your Personal Guide
TO BREAST BIOPSY WITH THE
ATEC®
FAST • SAFE • SIMPLE
Your doctor has recommended that you have a minimally invasive breast biopsy to collect a small sample of tissue that will be sent to pathology for testing and diagnosis. A minimally invasive procedure is much easier than an open surgical biopsy. There is less preparation and recovery time, less physical and emotional trauma, minimal risk of scarring, and no breast disfigurement. Yet you can be confident that a minimally invasive biopsy approach will yield the same high quality results to ensure the most accurate diagnosis possible.

It is likely that your procedure will be performed using guidance from one of the three primary imaging systems common in breast biopsy: ultrasound, stereotactic x-ray or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Your biopsy will be performed using the ATEC® Breast Biopsy and Excision System – a fast, safe and simple tissue collection method typically taking only minutes to complete.

**ATEC** The one-minute breast biopsy.

*Automated Tissue Excision and Collection system by Suros Surgical Systems, Inc.*

Breast cancer remains the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women. Early detection through regular mammograms, improved screening methods and practicing monthly breast self exams are saving thousands of lives every year.
Biopsy – What is it?

The removal of a small piece of tissue for microscopic examination to study the makeup of cells.

Breast biopsy with the ATEC® system simply refers to the device that will be used to complete your procedure. Your biopsy will be performed in an outpatient setting. The entire procedure takes place in five easy steps:

1. Numbing of the breast with medicine
2. Imaging the breast to identify the biopsy area
3. Inserting the biopsy device in the breast to retrieve tissue samples
4. Performing the biopsy
5. Marking the biopsy site for future reference.

Depending on the imaging system used to help guide your biopsy, you may have your breast compressed similar to a mammogram compression or a gel may be applied to the breast if your physician is using ultrasound imaging.

Specific questions about your biopsy procedure, why it is necessary, risk factors, and when you will get your biopsy results should be answered by the physician performing the biopsy procedure.
Biopsy Basics: Understanding Your Procedure

Before Your Procedure
There is no special preparation required in advance of your biopsy procedure. You may want to wear loose clothing for comfort. You may eat foods or drink liquids that are in your normal daily routine and you can perform your typical daily activities before arriving at the clinic or breast center.

You should inform your doctor of any medications you are currently taking whether prescription or over-the-counter. This includes aspirin, ibuprofen, blood thinners such as Coumadin, natural herbs, Vitamin E and other vitamins. Some of these medications must be temporarily stopped several days prior to your biopsy. Talk to your doctor in advance of your procedure to discuss your current medications and address any other questions you may have about this procedure.

Most women who have a biopsy are not diagnosed with cancer. More than 80% of all breast lesions identified for biopsy are diagnosed as benign or non-cancerous and present no health risk to the patient.
During Your Procedure

Note: If you are having an MRI-guided breast biopsy procedure, you will have an IV inserted into your arm so that a contrast agent can be used to see small details in the breast tissue.

After you have been properly positioned for your biopsy, your physician and a technologist will image the breast and locate the area to be biopsied. Your skin will be cleansed with antiseptic and the area to be biopsied will be numbed. Sometimes, a very small skin nick is made to help the biopsy device enter the breast with ease. You may feel some pressure as the biopsy device is moved to the site, but most women report no pain.

The actual biopsy procedure will take a very short time. Multiple tissue samples will be collected without having to remove the biopsy device. When you hear a “beep,” this indicates that collection of a tissue sample is complete. A final set of images may be taken and your physician may place a marker at the biopsy site for future reference to identify the exact location of the biopsy. The marker is made of titanium and poses no health or safety risk. You will not be able to feel or notice the marker after placement.

After Your Procedure

Pressure will be applied to the biopsy site for a few minutes. A small adhesive bandage will be placed over the skin nick and you may be provided with a cold/ice pack to apply over the biopsy site. In some instances, a compression wrap bandage may be placed around the chest to minimize chances of swelling or bruising. The collected tissue samples will be sent to the lab for analysis.

Your doctor may prescribe a non-aspirin pain reliever to help alleviate any possible discomfort and detailed post-biopsy instructions will be provided. Most women can resume normal daily activities immediately following their procedure. Your doctor will contact you after receiving your biopsy results and then instruct you on any follow-up care that may be necessary.

For more information about breast biopsy with the ATEC® system, please visit the Suros website at www.SurosSurgical.com.
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** Is this an approved procedure?
**A:** Yes, the ATEC® system has clearance from the FDA for excision of tissue, as well as complete removal of all visible evidence of benign (non-cancerous) breast disease.

**Q:** How much of the breast tissue or lump will be removed?
**A:** Physicians will take only the necessary amount of tissue samples to ensure an accurate diagnosis. Typically, 6-10 samples are collected.

**Q:** How long will the biopsy take?
**A:** Biopsy time varies from facility to facility and from physician to physician. Most procedures take a total of 60 minutes from the time you enter the exam room to the time you leave the hospital or breast center. The actual biopsy time using the ATEC® system is less than one minute.

**Q:** Will I have a scar?
**A:** Visible evidence of where the biopsy device was inserted into the breast is extremely small and fades to a natural skin tone over time.

**Q:** Will I experience any pain during the procedure?
**A:** You might feel a slight sting or pinch when the numbing medication is being inserted into the breast. Numbing the breast prior to the biopsy causes the rest of the procedure to be relatively pain free.

**Q:** What possible side effects should I know about?
**A:** Your breast may be slightly tender and you may experience some mild bruising at the biopsy site; however, most women report that they can resume normal daily activities the same day as the procedure. Consult your physician for his/her preferred post-procedure biopsy care.
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