

Having a Vacuum Assisted Excision

You have been referred for vacuum assisted excision by your doctor or health care professional. This leaflet explains what the examination involves and what to expect when you come to the hospital. It may not answer all your questions, so if you have any queries or concerns, please call the telephone number on your appointment letter.

What is a vacuum assisted excision and the benefits?

A vacuum assisted excision is a procedure to remove breast tissue from your breast. It involves giving local anaesthesia to numb the area, inserting the vacuum device into the breast and removing some tissue with this device. Vacuum assisted excisions can take a larger sample of tissue than a biopsy therefore providing more information.

Vacuum assisted excisions are used as an alternative to surgical excisions. Performing a vacuum assisted excision may mean you avoid having surgery and the associated complications that can come with it. It is a less invasive procedure and may result in a smaller scar.

Before your procedure:

If you are taking anti-coagulant medication (medication that thins your blood), may need to be stopped prior to the procedure. Please contact the number on your appointment letter if you are unsure whether to stop any medication you are on.

You may need to make arrangements to be accompanied home if you have a reaction to the anaesthetic used during the biopsy.

Asking for your consent.

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The medical team will ask for your consent for the procedure to go ahead. They will complete a form with you. This is known as written consent. If you do not wish to have the procedure or are undecided, please tell the medical team.

Students/trainees may be present during the examination but only with your verbal consent.

Please remember that you can ask the medical team any questions you have at any time before, during or after your procedure.

What happens during the vacuum assisted excision?

You will be asked to remove your clothes from your top half and to wear a gown. This procedure is carried out either with ultrasound or x-ray, guiding the operator to the area of breast tissue that they want to remove.

When carried out under ultrasound guidance, you will lie on the examination couch. Clear gel will be applied to your skin surface. The radiologist will slowly move a small handheld probe over the area while viewing the images produced on the monitor. The lights in the room will be dimmed so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly. Records of selected images will be made so that they can be viewed later. The radiologist may have to gently press down on the probe to get a good view. This may be uncomfortable for some people. If you do feel uncomfortable, please inform the radiologist, so that suitable adjustments can be made.

When carried out with x-ray guidance, you will be placed in a specialist chair that can be used upright or lying down depending on how best to access the area of breast tissue. You will have compression applied to the breast. There is certain level of compression that must be used to complete the procedure. X-rays will be taken and at some points the machine around you will move. The machine will move to take pictures

from different pictures from different angles. When moving, the machine will make a noise.

For both ultrasound and x-ray guidance, when the area of breast tissue is located the medical team will clean the skin. A small needle is inserted into the breast into to inject local anaesthesia. The medical team will wait to allow local anaesthesia time to numb the area. The anaesthesia works quickly, and they will ensure you are fully numb before beginning.

Once fully numb, the vacuum excision device can be inserted into this area of the breast. It stays in your breast during the procedure. You may be aware of pressure/movement in the breast, but you should not feel pain. Tell the medical team if you are experiencing pain and more anaesthesia can be used.

The breast tissue will be removed. The volume of tissue taken is small and sent away to be looked at under a microscope. During the procedure it is normal to take breast samples, evaluate them and then sometimes take more samples. You will not receive any results on the day.

Once the examination is over, if ultrasound guided the gel will be wiped off or if X-ray guided compression released. The healthcare team may use an ice pack to minimise bruising and a dressing will be applied to the wound. If you have any allergies to latex/plasters, please let the team know and other dressings can be used. You will be given extra dressings to bring home, along with aftercare instructions.

The number of staff present will be kept to a minimum - usually the person performing the procedure (radiologist/advanced practitioner) and one other staff member.

Will I feel any pain?

Local anaesthetic may cause stinging before it numbs the breast, but this should only last for a few seconds. You should not feel pain during the procedure due to the anaesthesia. But you may still notice pressure/movement within the breast. When the procedure is carried out under x-ray guidance, compression is applied to the breast. This can be

uncomfortable for some. You may feel some pressure on the breast during the procedure but should not feel any pain. Tell the advanced practitioner/radiologist if this is painful and more anaesthesia can be used.

The breast is often bruised and sore after the procedure and extra pain relief is advised. Aftercare instructions will be given to you about relieving pain and discomfort.

After your procedure

Once the examination is complete, you should remain in the department for 15 minutes to ensure you feel ok before going home. Only leave the department after you have been given information about how you will be informed of the results of the procedure.

If you experience a reaction to the anaesthetic, driving and working heavy machinery is ill advised for 24 hours.

When will I get the results?

The team will send a report about your biopsy to your doctor or other healthcare professional who referred you for the procedure. Usually this takes about a week. The results will be discussed at a meeting with all the professionals involved in your care. The team will decide whether you require further treatment and if you do, the best options.

The biopsy may need to be repeated if a diagnosis cannot be made from the breast tissue removed.

What are the risks?

Vacuum assisted excisions are a less risky alternative to surgical excisions, but they do still have considerable risks. These include:

- Infection- The skin surface is broken during the procedure so an infection could result.
- Allergic reaction- Due to the local anaesthesia given to numb the breast.
- Bruising and bleeding- Bruising is common. The breast has a bloody supply so there could be some bleeding.
- Clip migration- The clip can move to an unintended area within the breast.
- Equipment failure- The marker clip device may not deploy. Further biopsies; the biopsy may need to be repeated if a diagnosis cannot be made from the breast tissue removed.

Are there any alternatives?

The alternative is surgical excision. But your referring has decided that a vacuum assisted excision would be the most useful in your case. The examination will help your referrer to assess/treat you more fully and plan any further treatment that might be necessary. If you would like more information about alternative imaging tests, please speak to the doctor or health care professional managing your care.

Image sharing

Your images will be electronically stored on the hospital picture archiving system. This data can be accessed throughout the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other doctors and health care professionals who are directly involved in your care. The ability to share images and radiological reports will improve the safety and quality of your care by ensuring that the right information is available in the right place at the right time.

In order to improve the medical services, we provide we may also use your data as anonymously as possible for internal audit and medical education. If you would prefer that your data is not used for these purposes, please inform a member of staff when you attend for your examination.

If your data is to be used for research, then a separate consent process will be used. You will be asked for your consent, should this be the case.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about coming for your breast localisation, please contact the appointments officer at the number displayed on your appointment letter.

Feedback

We hope you found the information in this leaflet helpful. If it did not tell you what you needed to know or you would like to provide any feedback

on your experience please let us know so that we can make any necessary improvements.

You can provide feedback on your experience:

Telephone: (028) 9504 8000 (Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm)

Textphone: 18001 028 950 48000

By email: compliments@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By email: complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By completing an online form:

<http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact/FeedbackForm.htm>

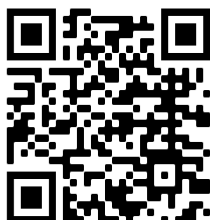
Care Opinion



We invite you to share your experience by clicking the following link:

<https://www.careopinion.org.uk/>

or by scanning the following QR code on your smartphone or tablet:



Language and accessible support services

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

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If a Sign Language interpreter is required, please either telephone **028 9615 8900** via the Sign Video remote interpreting service (<https://signvideo.co.uk/deaf-community/>) or email us at BCMammography@belfasttrust.hscni.net and we will arrange one for your appointment. Please have your H&C number ready when calling or include it in your email. This can be found at the top right corner of any Health and Social Care letters you may have received.

If you are unable to hear on the phone and need to contact us with regards to your appointment you can email us at BCMammography@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Do you need this information in another format or language?

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, including Braille, large print, CD, audio tape please contact the telephone number or e-mail address 028 950 40135 / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Czy potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym formacie lub języku?

Fundusz ma dostęp do usług w zakresie tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych. Jeśli potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym języku lub formacie, w tym w piśmie Braille'a, dużym druku, na płycie CD, kasecie magnetofonowej, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem telefonu lub adresem e-mail (028 950 40135) / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, a my dołożymy wszelkich starań, aby spełnić Twoje potrzeby.

هل تحتاج هذه المعلومات بصيغة أو بلغة أخرى؟

تستطيع الجمعية توفير خدمات الترجمة الفورية والتحريرية. إذا احتجت هذه المعلومات بلغة أو بصيغة أخرى، بما فيها صيغة

أو في شريط مسموع، يُرجى الاتصال برقم التليفون CD أو صيغة بالأحرف الكبيرة، أو في سي دي Braille برايل أو عبر البريد

، وسوف نبذل قصارى جهدنا في تلبية / (028 950 40135) الإلكتروني

احتياجاتك. MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Ar jums reikia šios informacijos kitu formatu ar kalba?

Tarnyba gali suteikti vertimo žodžiu ir raštu paslaugas. Jei reikia šios informacijos kita kalba ar formatu, įskaitant Brailio raštą, didelį šriftą, kompaktinį diską, garso įrašą, skambinkite telefonu arba susisiekite el. paštu (028 950 40135) / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

Aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-un alt format sau altă limbă?

Trustul are acces la servicii de interpretariat și traducere. Dacă aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format, inclusiv Braille, tipărire cu caractere de mari dimensiuni, CD, înregistrare audio, atunci vă rugăm să ne contactați la numărul de telefon sau la adresa de e-mail (028 950 40135) / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, iar noi vom face tot posibilul pentru satisfacerea necesităților dumneavoastră.

Ita presiza atu informasaun ida ne'e iha formatu ka lian seluk ka lae?

Fidusiáriu ida ne'e iha asesu ba servisu durubasa no tradusaun. Se Ita presiza informasaun ida ne'e iha lian ka formatu seluk, inklui letra Braile, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entaun favór telefone númeru ka enderesu e-mail (028 950 40135) / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.