

Having a Breast Marker Clip Inserted

You have been referred by your doctor or health care professional for a breast marker clip to be inserted. 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 breast marker clip?

A breast marker clip is a small piece of metal that is inserted into the breast tissue. It marks an area that the medical team needs help locating. Marker clips can be useful to mark an area where a biopsy has been performed. They can also make finding small areas of interest easier if further treatment is required. There are a variety of marker clips available for use and your medical team will choose the most appropriate marker for your case. These marker clips are designed for long term use within the breast tissue and after placement most people are not aware of their presence.

Before your procedure:

Anticoagulant 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 procedure.

Asking for your consent

The medical team will ask for your consent for the procedure to go ahead. This is known as verbal 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 breast marker clip insertion?

This procedure is carried out either with ultrasound or x-ray to guide the medical professional to the area of breast tissue they want to mark. For both methods you will be asked to remove your clothes from your top half and to wear a gown.

For ultrasound guided procedures you will lie on the examination couch. Here, you will have clear gel applied to the skin in the breast area. 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 medical professional 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 medical professional, so that suitable adjustments can be made.

For x-ray guidance, a mammogram machine is used. You will be placed in a specialist chair that can be used upright or lying down depending on how best to reach the area of breast tissue. You will have compression applied to the breast. There is a certain level of compression that must be used to complete the procedure. X-rays will be taken, and the machine will move around you. The machine will make a noise when doing this. Do not allow this to cause you any anxiety as it is entirely normal.

For both ultrasound and x-ray guidance, when the area of concerning breast tissue is located, the medical professional will clean the skin and insert a small needle into the breast to inject local anaesthesia. The medical professional will wait a few minutes to allow local anaesthetic time to numb the area.

The marker clip introducer needle is then placed into the breast. The marker clip is slid out of this introducer needle to set it in place. Once the marker clip is inserted, a mammogram of that breast will be performed. This is to check the position of the marker clip. If it is not in a satisfactory position, then another marker clip may need to be inserted.

Once the examination is over, depending on the guidance method used the gel will be wiped off or compression released.

Slight pressure will be applied to the wound. The wound will then get a dressing. Before the dressing is placed on the wound, please let the staff know if you have any allergies to latex/plasters so other dressings can be used.

The number of staff present during this procedure will be kept to a minimum and is usually the person performing the procedure and one other staff member.

Will I feel any pain?

Local anaesthetic (pain relief) is used to numb the breast. You may be aware of pressure/movement in the breast, but you should not feel pain. Tell the medical professional if you are experiencing pain and more anaesthetic can be used.

After your procedure

Once the examination is complete you should remain in the department for 15mins to ensure you feel ok. Only leave the department after your mammogram has been reviewed and they are happy with the position of the clip. The procedure will be reported by the medical professional and the report will be sent to your referring doctor or other professional who referred you for the procedure.

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

What are the benefits associated with a breast marker clip insertion?

A breast marker is useful for clinical management when an area of breast tissue requires monitoring. They can be used to distinguish the area where a biopsy has been performed, and they can make finding small areas of interest easier if further treatment is required.

What are the risks associated with a breast marker clip insertion?

Marker clips are titanium-based pieces of metal that may contain nickel. Some people may be allergic or sensitive to nickel. If this is the case, please inform the medical professional performing the procedure before the clip insertion.

Other risks/ side effects include:

- Infection: The skin surface is broken during the procedure so an infection could result.
- An allergic reaction: Due to the local anaesthesia given to numb the breast.
- Bruising and bleeding: The breast has a large blood supply, and it would be common to bruise after the procedure.
- Migration: The clip can move to an unintended area within the breast.
- Equipment failure: The marker device may not deploy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to a member of the medical team.

Are there any alternatives to a marker clip insertion?

A breast marker clip does not have to be inserted but your referrer has decided that it would be useful in your case. The examination will help your referrer to assess the area in future and make it easier to locate if further treatment is required. If you would like more information about alternatives, 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.

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 marker clip insertion, 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: <https://belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact-us/compliments-and-complaints/feedback-form/>



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

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 BCHMammography@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
BCHMammography@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 **028 9615 8900** or e-mail address MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Polish - 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 9615 8900/**
MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, a my dołożymy wszelkich starań, aby spełnić Twoje potrzeby.

Arabic - 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 برايل Braille أو صيغة بالأحرف الكبيرة، أو في سي دي CD أو في شريط مسموع، يُرجى الاتصال برقم التليفون أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / **028 9615 8900**، وسوف نبذل قصارى جهدنا في تلبية احتياجاتك.

Lithuanian - 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 susisiekiote el. paštu **028 9615 8900/** MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

Romanian - 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 9615 8900](tel:02896158900)/
MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, iar noi vom face tot posibilul pentru
satisfacerea necesităților dumneavoastră.

Tetum - 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 Braille, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entaun favór telefone número ka enderesu e-mail [028 9615 8900](tel:02896158900)/ MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.