

Having a Vacuum Assisted Biopsy

You have been referred for vacuum assisted biopsy 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 biopsy?

A vacuum assisted biopsy is a procedure to remove tissue from your breast. This procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic by the medical team. It is performed as an outpatient procedure and will take approximately one hour to complete.

Before your procedure

If you are taking anticoagulant medication (medication that thins your blood), it may need to be stopped. Please inform the doctor at the outpatient breast clinic if you take this medication or if you have any other questions about medication.

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

Asking your consent

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 advanced practitioner/radiologist any questions you have at any time before, during or after your procedure.

What happens during the vacuum assisted biopsy?

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 they want to remove.

For ultrasound guided procedures you, will lie on the examination couch. Clear gel is applied to your skin surface. The medical practitioner will move a small handheld probe over your breast 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 for viewing 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 discomfort, please inform the medical team, so that suitable adjustments can be made.

For x-ray guided procedures you will be in a specialist chair that can be used sitting up or lying down depending on how best to access the area of breast tissue. You will have compression applied to the breast. There is a level of compression that must be used so that clear images can be taken. X-rays will be taken and at some points the machine around you will move. The machine will make noise when doing this.

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 to inject local anaesthesia. The medical team will wait to allow the anaesthesia time to numb the area. It works quickly and will and will stop pain being felt in the area.

Once the area is fully numb, the vacuum biopsy device is inserted into the area of the breast. This stays in place during the procedure. You may be aware of pressure or movement in the breast, but you should not feel pain. If you do feel pain, tell the medical team and more anaesthesia can be used.

A small amount of breast tissue (normally a few grams) will be removed, by cutting and suctioning the tissue. Removing the samples only takes a few minutes. These samples are sent away to be looked at under a microscope. During the procedure, It is normal to take breast tissue samples, evaluate them and then sometimes take more samples. You will not receive any results on the day.

Once the examination is over, for ultrasound guidance the gel will be wiped off and for x-ray guidance the compression will be released. For both procedure types, a dressing will be applied to the wound. If you have any allergies to

latex or plasters, please let the team know and other dressings will be used. You will be given extra dressings home, along with some 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?

You should not feel pain during the procedure due to the use of anaesthesia. However, you may still notice pressure or 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.

The breast is often bruised and painful after the procedure and additional pain relief is advised. Aftercare instructions will be given to you with regards to this.

What happens after your procedure?

Once the examination is complete you should remain in the department for 15mins to ensure you feel ok before going home. Only leave after you have been given information about how you will receive results.

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 report for your procedure will be sent to your referring doctor or other healthcare professional who referred you for the procedure. Usually this takes about 10 days. 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 which they will then discuss with you.

What are the risks?

Vacuum assisted biopsy is a less risky alternative to surgical biopsy, but it does still have 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: The breast has a blood supply, and it would be common to be bruised after the procedure.
- 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.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss the risks further, please contact the department at the number provided on your appointment letter.

Are there any alternatives?

There are other alternative biopsy types, but your referrer has decided that a vacuum assisted biopsy would be the most useful in your case. The examination will help your referrer to assess 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: <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 susisiekite 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.