Breast Punch Biopsy

Your doctor has decided to perform a breast punch biopsy. A breast punch biopsy is a diagnostic procedure that helps your doctor tell if your breast cancer affects the skin of your breast. A small, thin cylinder of tissue is removed from one or more sites on the breast and is examined under a microscope. This information helps your doctor plan the best treatment for you.

Preparation

You may eat as normal before the biopsy. If you take any blood thinning medicine or are allergic to local anesthetics, let your provider know.

Before the procedure begins:
- You sign an informed consent. This means that you agree to have a breast punch biopsy done.
- You remove your clothes from the waist up. You wear a patient gown with the opening to the front.
- The provider who does the procedure confirms your identity, the procedure and the biopsy sites.

Procedure

The procedure takes a few minutes. More than one area of the breast may be biopsied.

1. You lie on your back. The breast being biopsied is exposed.
2. The provider marks the areas to be biopsied. The areas are cleansed with Betadine® or another skin cleanser.
3. The provider injects a local anesthetic into the biopsy sites. This numbs the area so you feel little discomfort.
4. Using the punch biopsy device, a small, circular shaped cut is made on your skin. (Figure 1)
5. The piece of skin and tissue are removed with a pair of sharp scissors. (Figure 2) The tissue sample removed is about half the height of a standard pencil eraser and about the same width.
6. The tissue sample, which is in a small container, is sent to the laboratory for examination with a microscope.
7. After the biopsy, the provider applies pressure to the biopsy sites to stop any bleeding.
8. One or 2 stitches close the small openings in the skin.
9. An antibiotic ointment and a Band-Aid® are placed over the biopsy site.

**After the Procedure**

- Keep the biopsy sites clean and dry for 24 hours after the biopsy. After 24 hours, you can take the Band-Aid® off.
- After 24 hours, you may shower as normal. Wash the area with soap and water each day.
- There is no need to keep using antibiotic ointment. Cover the stitches with a dry Band-Aid if necessary.
- Stitches may be removed 10 to 14 days after the biopsy.
  - If a follow-up visit is scheduled, your stitches are removed at that time.
  - If a follow-up visit is not yet scheduled, contact the Breast Center, at 713-792-2360, option 4, to schedule an appointment to have your stitches removed. A nurse in the surgery overflow clinic will remove your stitches.

If you have any of the following, call the Breast Center. If it is after business hours, call 713-792-7090 and ask for the Breast Surgeon on call.

- Fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher
- Redness and/or heat at the biopsy site
- White or yellow discharge (pus) coming from the biopsy site

**Nellie B. Connally Breast Center**
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
713-792-2360

**Results**

Results are available 5 to 7 business days after the biopsy. Contact your doctor or advanced practice provider for the results. Or, you may wait for your follow-up visit to get your results.