



Welcome to the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Mammography Department.

You have been scheduled to have a **Breast Biopsy**.

This information will help you understand the test that has been scheduled.

Thank you for trusting OSF for your medical imaging needs.

You been scheduled to have a breast biopsy. The entire procedure will take approximately an hour to an hour and a half.

Lumps or abnormalities in the breast are often detected by physical examination, mammography, or other imaging studies. However, it is not always possible to tell from these whether an abnormal area is non-cancerous (benign) or cancerous.

A breast biopsy is performed to remove a very small amount of tissue from a suspicious area through a less invasive procedure involving a hollow needle. The tissue that is removed is so small that it needs to be examined under a microscope to determine a diagnosis. Image-guided needle biopsy is not designed to remove the entire lesion.

In stereotactic breast biopsy, a special mammography machine using low-dose X-ray helps guide the radiologist – a doctor specializing in mammography - to the site of the abnormal area.

When to come:

Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time to check in.

Preparation:

Please do not wear any deodorant, powder or lotions under your arms and breast area on the day of your procedure.

Discuss any medications you are taking with our breast health nurse when you make your appointment. You may be asked to discontinue the use of

blood thinning medications, including aspirin and aspirin-like products for several days prior to the procedure.

Eat a light meal before the procedure.

Wear a comfortable two-piece garment. Bring two sports bras the day of your procedure; this will act as a compression bandage after the procedure.

Family:

Your family or friends may be asked to stay in the waiting area during your test. If adult patients must bring children with them, please bring another adult to watch the children.

Jewelry:

You will be asked to remove all jewelry from the neck area.

Pregnancy testing:

Pregnancy testing will now be performed on females receiving diagnostics between the ages of 10 and 55 years old if you have not had your tubes tied or a hysterectomy. Home pregnancy tests are not acceptable. If you know that you are pregnant, please notify your doctor.

Procedure instruction:

To prepare for a mammogram, you will be asked to undress down to your waist. You will put on a comfortable gown that opens in the front. Your test will take approximately an hour to an hour and half and is performed by a specially trained radiologist.

While sitting up, the registered mammography

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technologist will position your breast on the mammography plate. The breast is compressed and held in position throughout the procedure.

The area is washed with a cleansing solution. A numbing medicine is injected into the breast area to numb it. Once the area is numb, the radiologist will insert a biopsy needle and advance it to the area to be biopsied. Some X-ray images are obtained to confirm that the needle tip is within the area of interest.

Very small amount of tissue is removed using a special device attached to the needle. Without moving the needle much, several small amount of tissue are collected from the area of interest. You may hear several clicks from the biopsy instrument.

A small marker may be left in the breast, so the site can be located in the future if necessary. The marker will cause no pain nor deformity. When completed, the needle will be gently removed and a final set of X-ray images will be taken.

Once the biopsy is complete, pressure will be applied to stop any bleeding and the area will be covered with a dressing. Two sports bras will be put on to help with keeping compression on the breast.

After test instructions:

You will not be able to do any heavy lifting for 48 hours after the procedure.

Test results:

A pathologist will examine the tissues obtained from your biopsy under the microscope and make a final diagnosis. The Women Center staff will share the results with you the next day, when you return for your follow up appointment. The results are also sent to your physician.