

Breast Imaging Suite

Concord Hospital Campus
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248 Pleasant St., Suite 106
Concord, NH 03301
603.415.2902

CIC Pillsbury

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248 Pleasant St., Suite 102
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60 Commercial St., Suite 101
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www.concordimagingcenter.com

BREAST BIOPSY

A biopsy of the breast refers to a procedure in which a sample of tissue within the breast is obtained. This is performed with the assistance of **ultrasound**, **X-ray (stereotactic)** or **MRI-guidance** with the type of procedure and image guidance selected to optimize the sampling success while keeping in mind your comfort.

PREPARATION

Specific instructions will be provided when your appointment is scheduled. Usually there is minimal preparation. You may be told to stop taking blood thinners several days prior to the biopsy to minimize your risk of bleeding. Although there are no restrictions of foods, you should avoid coffee and other caffeinated beverages since you will be required to lie still.

You may eat breakfast on the day of your exam. Wear an outfit that makes it easy to undress above the waist, such as a two-piece outfit. If an **MRI-guided** biopsy is being performed, you should avoid clothing with metallic objects such as zippers, snaps and grommets as metal may interfere with the imaging process. If you must wear clothing with metal, hospital gowns will be provided.

THE PROCEDURE

The technologist will bring you to the exam room. A series of screening questions will be asked and the procedure explained to you. The radiologist will meet with you to answer any questions or concerns you may have. You will be asked to sign a consent form.

For an **ultrasound-guided biopsy**, you will lie either on your back or side. For **stereotactic or MRI-guided biopsy**, you will lie on your stomach with your breast positioned through an opening in the table. Once comfortably positioned, the breast will be washed with antiseptic soap. The radiologist will use a small needle to numb (anesthetize) the breast. A special needle will then be guided into the breast and samples obtained.

After the biopsy, the technologist will hold pressure on the biopsy site for several minutes to prevent bleeding. The site will be dressed with gauze and surgical tape, and an ice pack will be placed on it to reduce swelling and bruising.

The procedure usually takes between 30 and 60 minutes but sometimes longer depending on the number of sites targeted and on the image guidance used.



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AFTER THE EXAM

You will be given instructions in bandage care and on limited physical activity. Your breast may be tender following the exam. This is normal and should not be cause for concern. Report any increased pain or fever to your doctor promptly.

A pathologist, a physician who specializes in analyzing tissue under a microscope, will prepare a report which will be sent to your physician. Normally the results are available in two or three business days.