

Breast Care Unit

Patient Information – Advice following a core biopsy

You have recently undergone a procedure known as a core biopsy, this is where a sample of tissue has been taken from your breast through a small cut. These tissue specimens will be carefully examined in the laboratory.

Results: It can take a week to analyse these samples and you will be given an appointment to come back to discuss the results. However, occasionally further sampling is required. Should this be necessary, you may be contacted directly by phone or letter with an appointment to attend for a repeat biopsy. You will be given a different appointment to discuss the final results. When you come for your results it may be helpful to bring a relative or close friend.

What do I do when I get home?

As the local anaesthetic wears off, you may find that your breast is uncomfortable, you can take painkillers to help with this. Normal over the counter Paracetamol is recommended. You will have noticed that the doctor or nurse applied firm pressure over the site for some minutes before dressing it, this was to help prevent bleeding and subsequent bruising. If the area should bleed again, apply pressure and a cold compress to help. However, if you have any further problems, do contact your GP or Breast Care Nurse who will advise you on the best course of action.

We advise you to wear your bra for 24 hours to help support the breast and relieve any discomfort. If you have any chest pains following the procedure, do contact your GP or NHS 111 for further guidance.

You may remove the dressing when you feel ready to do so, usually within the next day or two. Do not soak the area in the bath for 24 hours, but bathing as normal can take place once the dressing is removed.

If you have any questions arising from this test, our Breast Care Nurses will be please to help you: 01908 996924 (08.30 – 16.30 Monday – Friday).