

Salisbury Breast Clinic Information for Female Patients (page 1 of 3)

Location

The breast clinic is located in the Breast Unit. The Breast Unit shares its entrance with the Gynaecology department.

From the main entrance (level 3) follow signs for Sarum Entrance and exit the main building. Turn left and the Breast Unit entrance is on the right, up some steps. It is located opposite the tennis courts.

For car park users, parking is available at the rear of the site in car park 8. Follow signs to the Sarum Entrance Breast Unit entrance is on the right, up some steps.

Clinic days and times:

One Stop Breast Clinic	
Monday	1.30 – 5.00pm
Tuesday	1.30 - 5.00pm
Thursday	9.00 - 11.00am
Thursday	1.30 - 5.00pm

You have been referred by your General Practitioner to the Salisbury Breast Clinic. It may be helpful to run through the workings of the clinic.

Before your clinic appointment

It would be very helpful if you could fill in the section on the back page of this leaflet with details of past medical history and family history of breast problems and bring it with you to your clinic appointment and **show it to the doctor.**

On the day of clinic

On the day of your appointment please do not use underarm deodorants, body sprays, creams or talcum powder to the upper part of your body. These can interfere with clinical investigations.

In view of the length of time required to perform all the assessment tests, and also for companionship, we recommend that you bring a friend or partner with you.

Your clinic appointment

A fully trained surgeon will be available in all clinics to make sure that a consistent quality of care is provided

All new patients are assessed by a fully trained surgeon to ensure that

Breast Secretary

Tel: 01722 336262 Ext 5910/5913



If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

consistent quality of care is provided.

You will be asked what symptoms you now have.

Following this, you will be examined to confirm your family doctor's findings.

Investigations

As well as the examination further investigations may need to be performed.

When are these done?

We aim to perform all your investigations at this clinic appointment, but **we cannot guarantee** that all patients will have their investigations performed on the day of the clinic visit.

What other investigations may be done?

The first is breast imaging, either by X-ray (mammogram), or by ultrasound scan (sono mammogram). The second is needle biopsy.

X-Ray Mammogram

What is a mammogram?

A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast that takes approximately 30 minutes. It visualises normal breast tissue and any abnormalities within it. A series of x-rays are taken at various angles. In order to achieve the maximum information on the X-ray, the breast will be compressed by using specially designed equipment. This is uncomfortable rather than painful.

There is a small dose of radiation with a mammogram but the risk from a mammography causing cancer is very low; for example in to a 60 year old woman the risk is about 1 in 23,000. To put this risk into perspective, of every 23,000 women with no breast symptoms aged 60 who have breast screening about 200 already have cancers that will be detected only by a mammogram.

Will I need to have a mammogram?

Most women with breast symptoms who are over the age of 40 and have not had a mammogram within the last two years will have a mammogram as part of their overall assessment.

When do I have my mammogram?

To maximise the number of ladies who have a complete assessment performed during one clinic attendance the mammogram is sometimes performed before you are seen in clinic. This appointment will be given to you at the same time you receive your clinic appointment from the Breast Secretary.

On other occasions, following assessment in clinic, you will either be sent directly to the X-ray department and then return to clinic immediately after your mammogram, or a mammogram may be organised for another day.

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Ultrasound

Ultrasound is a different way of looking at the breast tissue. It is used for the assessment of women under the age of 40, and in some older women who have had a recent mammogram. In some instances, ultrasound of the breast is performed at a separate hospital attendance.

Core needle biopsy

This test uses a special biopsy needle and is performed using local anaesthetic. The test is sometimes performed by the Consultant Surgeon, and on other occasions by the X-ray Consultant. The result takes a few days to become available. We will contact you with the result or arrange to see you again in clinic to discuss this.

Treatment

- happily, for the majority of ladies seen in the clinic, no serious problems are identified. Treatment then consists of reassurance, supported by the results of the investigations
- in some instances further investigations or an operation may be needed to completely exclude serious breast problems
- in a minority of patients seen in the clinic we are very suspicious that they may have breast cancer during the initial clinic attendance. If this is the case then all the treatment options will be discussed and agreed before treatment starts.

After the clinic

After you have been seen in the clinic we will be in touch by post with any outstanding results.

If you have any new symptoms or concerns, and you would like to be seen in the clinic again please do not hesitate to contact the Breast Secretary on: 01722-336262 Ext 4989/4778

Please fill this in and give it to the Consultant in the clinic

Past medical history

(i.e. previous operations and illnesses)

Regular Medications:

Family History:

(Please list any close relatives on either side of your family who have had Breast or Ovarian Cancer, and their age when this was discovered)

Year and place of last mammogram:

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