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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.

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Having a Stereo-Guided Core Biopsy (page 1 of 2)

There is a very tiny area on your mammogram which needs further investigation.

Many of these areas turn out to be completely benign, but the only way we can be sure is to perform a biopsy. In other words, a small sample of the area within the breast needs to be taken and examined under a microscope so that a diagnosis can be made.

What is a Stereo-guided core biopsy?

We need to find the exact position of the tiny abnormality. We do this by using special x-rays (mammograms).

So that a sample can be taken, a special attachment is put on the x-ray machine. You will have to sit very still whilst your breast is compressed and x-rays pictures are taken to find the abnormality.

Once we have found the area, you will be given a local anaesthetic before we take the samples using a very thin needle.

How long will it take?

Approximately 30 minutes.

Will it be painful?

The compression is less than that used for taking the original mammogram and although the procedure may be a little uncomfortable, it should not be painful.

Are there any after effects?

You may have some bruising in the breast where the biopsy has been performed.

If you have any pain after the procedure, try to avoid taking aspirin or aspirin-containing painkillers as these can cause a little additional bruising. Paracetamol is a more suitable painkiller to take after a stereo-guided core biopsy. You may want to wear a comfortable, well-fitting bra after the biopsy and probably keep it on in bed that night.

Can I drive home after the procedure?

Yes. Do try however, to avoid any strenuous activity for the 24 hours after the procedure, in particular any heavy lifting.

Clinical Radiology
01722 336262 Ext. 4205

When can the dressing come off?

A small paper stitch is placed over the skin where the biopsy has been taken. You should try to keep this on for at least 48 hours and longer if possible, though it does not matter if this comes off accidentally. A larger dressing is placed over this which can be taken off the following morning.

Is there anything I need to tell the Radiographer?

You should tell her if you take any regular medication or have a history of bleeding problems.

What about the results?

The Breast Service Co-ordinator will telephone you at home in a week when your results are available to confirm whether or not you need a further appointment.

Who can I speak to if I have any queries?

Please contact:

- Breast Service Co-ordinator on: 01722 336262 ext. 4768
- Breast Care Nurse on: 01722 01722 429256

We hope that this leaflet has been of help to you. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know.