

MRI guided biopsy of the breast

Important information for patients
about your appointment



Please read this information carefully (even if you have had an MRI scan before) as it includes important information about your scan, if you do not follow the instructions below we may not be able to complete your scan.

Before your appointment

MRI uses strong magnets to take detailed pictures of the inside of your body. Because of these strong magnets if you have certain implants or certain metal objects in your body, you may not be able to have a scan, or you may require extra safety checks before scanning.

Please contact us using the number on your appointment letter if you have any of the following, even if you have been told you can have MRI scans or have had previous MRI scans with the implant in place:

- Pacemaker or implanted defibrillator
- Surgical clips in your head
- Ever had a metal fragment enter your eye or head, even if you think it has been removed.
- Hearing devices implanted into the head and ear (normal hearing aids are ok).
- Implanted electronic devices (such as spinal cord or nerve stimulators. Even if you have had them removed.
- Any extendible bone device (such as a leg lengthening device).

- Any implants where a magnet is used to access a port for injections (such as a gastric band).
- Any implant with an electronic programmer.
- Shunts that can be programmed (fixed pressure shunts are ok)
- If you have or are due to have any surgical or endoscopic procedures within six weeks prior to your MRI appointment
- If you are pregnant.

Note for patients with wearable glucose monitors

Most manufacturers advise removing glucose monitors prior to having an MRI scan, although the monitor poses no risk to you during the scan the magnet may damage the device. We therefore advise that you have a replacement sensor patch available prior to your scan.

Accessibility

All our departments are fully accessible, and staff fully trained in helping patients who need extra assistance to transfer from a wheelchair to the scanner, but if you require a hoist to transfer from a wheelchair, please ring the number on your letter so we can make sure your scan is booked on one of our scanners with access to suitable equipment.

What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of your body and does not use ionising radiation.



MRI breast biopsies is a test performed when an area of the breast that needs a biopsy cannot be identified using other methods (such as mammography or ultrasound).

Preparation

There is no need to stop taking any medications before the scan and you may eat and drink as normal.

Before your scan you will be asked to remove any loose metal objects, watches, credit cards, money or electronic devices, for security reasons we advise that you leave any valuables at home. If there is any metal on your clothing near to where we are scanning you may be asked to remove the item of clothing, a gown will be provided. It is recommended to bring loose fitting comfortable clothes.

It's important that you do not come to your appointment with wearable weights or wearable magnets. If you use cosmetics with magnetic substances (such as magnet attached eye lashes) please make sure you do not wear these on the day of your scan and make sure any previously applied make-up is fully removed.

Please note that straight after the biopsy it is strongly advised not to drive as there may be some discomfort and bleeding may occur.

What will happen during my examination?

You will be asked to complete a safety questionnaire prior to entering the department (staff are available to help if you require). For your own safety it is important to complete this form as accurately as possible.

A small plastic tube called a cannula will be placed in your hand or arm and remain in place for the duration of the scan (please note if you have a line already implanted such as a PICC line, Hickman line or port we still advise a cannula.

This is because we inject the contrast relatively fast, and there is a small chance this will disrupt your line. If you still wish us to use the implanted line, please contact us prior to your appointment so we can ensure a suitable trained member of staff is available to access the line).

The radiologist who is performing the biopsy will then talk through the procedure with you and ask you to complete a consent form, if you have any question the radiologist will be more than happy to answer these at any point before or during the procedure.



During your biopsy there will be a team of people supporting you, including radiologist, medical physicist, radiographers and radiographer assistants.

When you enter the scanning room the radiologist will apply a skin prep to the breast to ensure the skin is suitable clean for the biopsy area. You will be asked to lie on your front with your head down, or to one side, on a special table that gets very detailed images of the breast.

We will ensure you are as comfortable as possible before starting the scan. You will be given some earplugs to wear during the scan and you will be given a buzzer that you can press if you want the scan to stop.

You will then be placed into the MRI scanner; this is a wide tube. During the scan the MRI machine will make a loud noise, this is normal. If you think you may not be able to stay still, please speak to the team.

An injection of a special dye will be administered during the scan. The radiologist will then review the scans and locate the area that needs a biopsy. In very rare cases at this point the MRI does not show any target and the procedure will stop, in most cases however the area of interest is located, and the procedure can continue.

After this first scan has been completed there will be a period of time where the radiologist and radiographers will be completing various tasks to ensure the biopsy occurs in the correct location (known as targeting). During this time, you must stay still on the bed, one of the team will be available to talk to and to support you whilst this is happening.

Once the targeting is complete the radiologist will then inject a local anaesthetic to the area of the breast that the biopsy will occur, this can be a little uncomfortable at first, but the anaesthetic will quickly start to work and at this point you

may feel pushing or pressure but not any pain. A needle will then be placed into the breast, and a further scan will then occur to check the end of the needle is in the correct position for the biopsy.

If the scan confirms the needle is correctly located the radiologist will then take the biopsy, they will take a number of tissue samples in the area. They will then place a small clip in the area they took the tissue from, this is so that if in future the area of breast that was biopsied needs to be identified it can be.

After the procedure you will be placed on a trolley and pressure will be applied to the biopsy site until bleeding stops. You will be monitored for a period after the biopsy and a dressing will be applied to the area of the breast the biopsy occurred.

Aftercare

- Leave the dressing on the breast for 24 hours if there is no obvious bleeding, steri-strips should be left in place for about a week and then can be eased off with water in the shower or bath.
- Do not undertake any vigorous exercise or heavy lifting for 23 hours following your biopsy.
- If your biopsy site begins to bleed, apply a clean dressing over the existing dressing and apply firm pressure directly to the biopsy site.
- In exceptional circumstances it is possible for heavy bleeding to occur from the biopsy site. If this should occur roll up a clean towel, lay down and apply as much pressure as possible for at least 15 minutes. If it doesn't seem to be

stopping contact us on 0113 206 8452 (note this number should not be used for appointments, please see your letter for appointment contact details).

- If you cannot contact us on the above number and bleeding continues, please contact, or visit your local accident and emergency department.
- If your breast is tender, you can take pain relief as you would for a headache (such as paracetamol or ibuprofen), Do not take any medication that contains aspirin as it may cause further bleeding. Sleeping in a soft bra may help to support the breast and ease discomfort.
- You may develop some bruising, but this will resolve within 1-2 weeks. You may also develop a lump, known as a haematoma at the site of the biopsy. This will resolve; however, it may take several weeks.

How will I receive the results?

The samples will be sent to pathology for analysis and the results will be sent to the breast clinic, radiology is not able to give results over the phone.

Childcare – Under 16 years of age

The Trust is unable to take responsibility to look after children under the age of 16 and your children cannot enter the scan room. We request that parents or carers find alternative childcare arrangements during their Radiology appointments. If you bring children with you, they must be accompanied by someone 16 years or older. Failure to follow this request will result in your appointment being rearranged.

Gender diversity

During your appointment you will be asked about the biological sex you were at birth. This information will ensure we can safely perform the examination and may also assist with your diagnosis. All disclosed information will remain confidential.

Transport

If you require and are entitled to hospital transport, then please note this has *not* been booked. To book transport please ring **0300 330 2000**. Please note that if your appointment is booked on an evening or weekend this means we have not been told you require transport and these times might fall outside of the transport services operating times, so please contact the department using the number on your letter to check that your appointment time is appropriate.



What did you think of your care?

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/nhsleedsfft

Your views matter



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