

# Parkside Breast Imaging

## Vacuum Assisted Biopsy

### Introduction

If a previous biopsy has not given a definitive result and more breast tissue is needed to make a diagnosis, or if the area of concern is difficult to target, you may be offered a vacuum assisted biopsy. This procedure takes a little longer than a core biopsy and is done using mammography or ultrasound for guidance.

### What happens during the procedure?

This procedure takes 30-90 minutes and is done using mammogram or ultrasound guidance. A Vacuum Assisted Biopsy uses a suction device to remove several tissue samples at the same time, when necessary.

Once the area of concern has been located with imaging guidance, an injection of local anesthetic is made to that area. A small cut is made in the skin approximately the size of a match stick head through which a hollow probe connected to a vacuum device is placed.

Using ultrasound or mammography guidance, breast tissue is sucked through the probe by the vacuum into a collecting chamber. This means that several tissue samples can be taken at once without having to remove the probe each time. These samples are sent to the laboratory where they are examined under a microscope to make the diagnosis.

### Breast Marker

Sometimes the small area of the breast tissue being sampled may be completely removed during the biopsy. When this happens it is sensible to mark the part of the breast using a tiny metal clip. This is done in case further investigations are required at a later time. The marker clip is inserted as part of the biopsy procedure after the samples have been taken. Inserting this is painless as the breast will still be numb from the local anaesthetic. You will not be able to feel the marker clip and you will not be aware that it is in your breast. It will be seen on any further breast ultrasound scans or breast x-rays (mammograms) that you have done. Although made of metal, the metal clip is MRI compatible. This means that if you ever need an MRI scan the clip will not cause any problems.



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### **After the biopsy has been taken:**

When adequate samples have been obtained and the procedure is finished, firm compression will then be applied to the breast biopsy site by a member of staff for 10 minutes to reduce the risk of bruising. A paper stitch (Steri-Strip) will be placed over the puncture site and covered with a waterproof dressing. Written and verbal instructions will be given regarding the aftercare of the area. You will then be able to get dressed.

This procedure will take approximately 30 minutes – 1 hour 30 minutes.

### **Will I have a follow-up appointment?**

Your referring Breast Consultants or Oncologist will discuss the results of this biopsy with you.

Please make a follow up appointment 48-72 hours after the biopsy appointment.

This leaflet is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

