

ULTRASOUND-GUIDED BREAST BIOPSIES

Ultrasound-guided Breast biopsies are performed by using ultrasound imaging to locate the lesion or mass. The radiologist then removes some cells from the suspicious area using a core biopsy needle.

Covered by Alberta Health Care

Referrals are necessary for all bookings

Exam Duration: 60 - 90mins

Biopsies are performed at our Red Deer location.

PATIENT PREPARATION

- ✘ **All blood thinners** (Warfarin, Coumadin, Plavix, Aspirin, Eliquis etc.) must be **discontinued for 5 days prior** to your procedure, but only after your physician has provided written approval, post consultation. Take all other medications as per usual.
- ✔ Eat and drink normally the day of your appointment, having something to eat before your appointment is encouraged.
- ✔ Please arrive for your appointment **30 minutes prior** to your appointment time.
- ✘ You should be accompanied by a driver, but if this is not possible you will be asked to remain in the department for **30-60 minutes post procedure**.
- ✔ Additional instructions will be given at time of booking.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR EXAM:

- ✔ When you arrive you will check in at the main floor reception.
- ✔ You will be given an exam procedure information sheet to read.
- ✔ You will be greeted by one of our technologists and be asked to change into a gown, removing all clothing from the waist up.
- ✔ The technologist will then review your history, explain the procedure, and have you sign a consent form.
- ✔ You will be positioned on a diagnostic bed.
- ✔ The radiologist is called into the room and reviews relevant imaging and documentation.
- ✔ The radiologist will then perform the biopsy using ultrasound image guidance, and several samples will be obtained.
- ✔ The samples will be forwarded to the Red Deer Laboratory for testing and the results forwarded to your doctor in **5-7 business days**.

AFTER YOUR EXAM:

- ✔ Once the procedure is complete you will be asked to wait for **30 minutes**.
- ✔ Book a follow up appointment with your referring physician to discuss the biopsy results
- ✔ You must keep the biopsy site dry for **24 hours**.
- ✘ You may use ice packs (**no heat**) and over the counter pain medications for pain control as needed. **Do not** use Aspirin as it will increase blood clotting times.
- ✘ If there are signs of infection including swelling, redness and or warmth over the biopsy site and/ or fever or chills, **contact your family physician immediately** or go to the **nearest Emergency department**.
- ✔ You may resume Aspirin and/or blood thinners the day after the procedure.

CAMIS strives to have the results sent to your referring doctor **within 24 hours**. Sometimes exams require consultation which can delay reporting. If your doctor has **not received results in 7 days**, please email info@camiscare.ca with the concern and include your Alberta Health Care number. An administrator will determine the cause of the delay and respond to you.