



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

Public Health Service

Phoenix Indian Medical Center
4212 North 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-263-1684

ULTRASOUND GUIDED BREAST BIOPSY

How should you prepare?

You should wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing – preferably a shirt and pants. You will be asked to wear a gown during the procedure.

It is preferable to have someone accompany you and drive you home afterwards.

How is the procedure performed?

You will be awake during the procedure and should have little or no discomfort. The procedure is usually completed within an hour.

You will be positioned lying face up on an exam table, sometimes with a pillow underneath part of your back to turn you slightly.

A local anesthetic will be injected to numb the area in your breast that is going to be biopsied.

A biopsy needle will be inserted and advanced to the lesion while watching with ultrasound. You will need to remain still during the procedure.

The vacuum-assisted device will pull tissue from the breast lesion through the needle and into a sampling container which will be sent to pathology (to look at the tissue collected).

Sometimes a small marker will be placed in the breast at the lesion that was biopsied so that it can be located in the future if needed.

Once the biopsy is completed, pressure will be held briefly and then a dressing will be applied to the opening in the skin from the needle. No stitches are usually needed.

What will I experience afterwards?

Some women experience bruising and swelling at the biopsy site after the procedure. You may use over-the-counter Tylenol and ice packs for comfort. Bruising is normal.

You should call us if you experience excessive swelling, bleeding, drainage, redness or heat in the breast.

You should avoid strenuous activities for 24 hours after returning home and then resume as tolerated. Some women find that wearing a sports bra/comfortable bra for the first 24 to 48 hours helps decrease both bruising and discomfort.

Pathology results will usually be available within one week of the procedure. If you have not heard from us within a week, please contact us for your results.

What are the limitations of ultrasound guided biopsies?

Occasionally, the lesion will be missed during the biopsy or will underestimate the extent of the disease. If the diagnosis remains uncertain after a procedure, surgical biopsy is usually necessary.