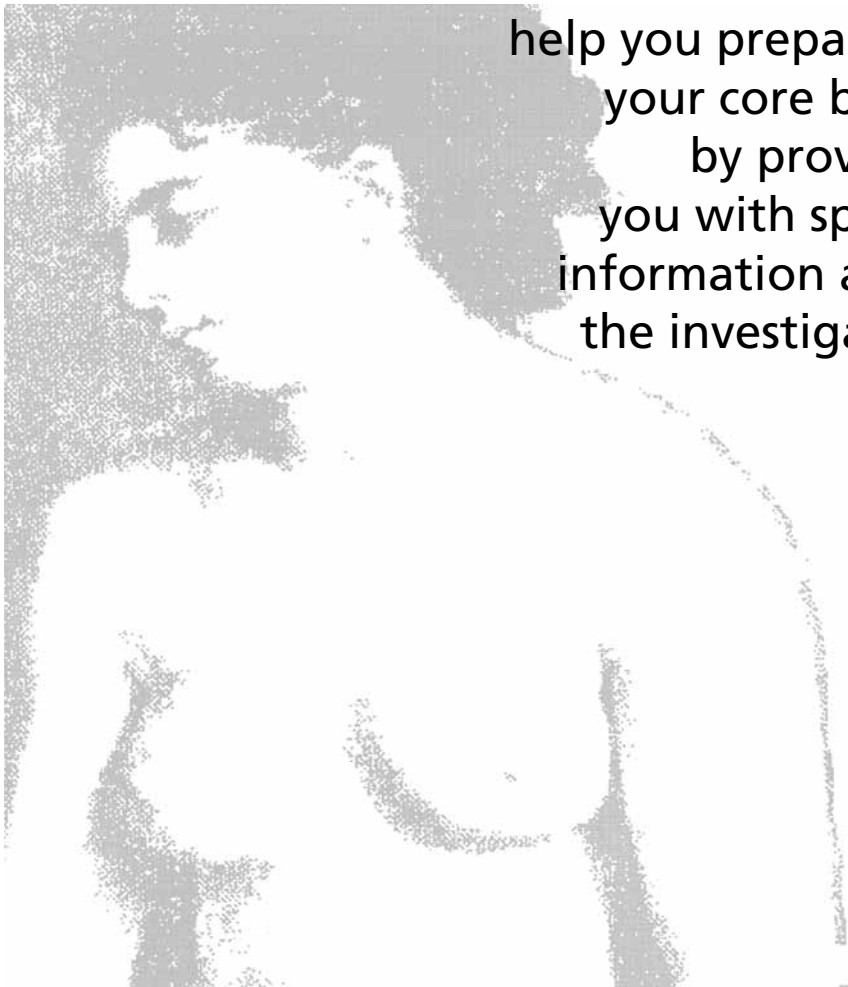


Oxford Breast Imaging Unit, Churchill Hospital

Core biopsy of the breast

This leaflet aims to help you prepare for your core biopsy by providing you with specific information about the investigation.



What is the test?

- This test is a way of obtaining samples of breast tissue to send to the pathology laboratory for analysis.

How is the test carried out?

- The test is carried out in the Breast Care Unit using an x-ray mammogram machine or an ultrasound machine. A doctor and another trained member of staff will be with you during the test, which takes about 30 minutes to complete.
- If you are taking anti-coagulation (blood thinning) medication, please inform the doctor before the test.
- You will be asked to undress to the waist, so it would be easier for you to wear a top with a skirt or trousers rather than a dress. The area of breast to be sampled will be located using either the ultrasound machine or x-ray pictures in conjunction with a small computer. The skin and deeper tissue will then be numbed with local anaesthetic before a biopsy needle is used to take small samples of the abnormality.
- After the test your breast may feel tender when the local anaesthetic has worn off. You may also notice some bruising. This is normal and should disappear within a few days. A light dressing is applied to the wound after the test is completed. Please keep the wound covered and dry for 48 hours. Wash or bathe with care.
- Before you leave the Breast Care Unit we will make arrangements for you to be informed of the results. These will be available within 2 weeks.

What are the benefits of the test?

- This test enables a diagnosis to be made when the abnormality is too small to be felt. In some instances very small cancers will be detected, leading to early treatment. In other cases the presence of benign (non-cancerous) disease will be confirmed. In a few cases however, the diagnosis may remain uncertain. You will be given the result of your test by a doctor who will advise you of any further treatment or follow up that may be necessary.

What are the risks?

- Bleeding from the biopsy site may occur during the test. However, one of the staff looking after you will press on the site to stop the bleeding.
- A few women may feel a little light-headed during the test, particularly if the weather is hot. Please let the staff know immediately if you feel like this at any point.
- Rarely the biopsy may need to be repeated if the result is inconclusive.
- Please check that you receive a second advice sheet after completion of the procedure.
- If you would like to discuss any aspect of the test please phone the Breast Care Unit on **01865 235631** or **01865 235632**.
- If you wish, you can contact the Breast Care Nurse on **01865 235773** or **235640**.

These contacts are available Monday - Friday office hours only.

Appointment:

Time:

Date:

Location:

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

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