

Breast Biopsy with Needle Localization

Needle localization precisely determines the location of suspicious breast tissue. Your physician has recommended this method because an abnormality in your breast cannot be easily felt.

To pinpoint the biopsy site before your surgery, needle localization will be performed by a clinical breast radiologist in the Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care. This guides the most precise surgery possible, allowing your surgeon to remove appropriate tissue for evaluation.

Procedure steps

You will check in at the front desk of the Center for Breast Care located on the first floor of the East Building on Denton Street in La Crosse. After registering, you will be escorted to the procedure area. A technologist will seat you on a movable chair near the mammography unit or help you lay down on a table for an ultrasound.

Your breast will be cleansed with alcohol and numbing medicine may be used at the needle entry point. Then, your radiologist will insert a small, hollow needle in the area of the breast where the abnormality is located.

X-rays will confirm correct needle placement or your radiologist will use an external ultrasound probe to accurately target the area of concern.

A very thin, flexible wire will then be inserted through the hollow needle into the biopsy area. When the wire is in place, the needle will be removed and the wire taped to your skin to keep it in position.

During the localization, your radiologist and technologist will explain the procedure and answer your questions. You will then be escorted to PreOp and continue on into surgery.

During and after surgery

Guided by the wire and radiology images, your surgeon will

remove the lesion for immediate evaluation by the radiologist to make sure the tissue in question was sufficiently sampled or removed from the breast. After this confirmation, all tissue is sent for final evaluation by a pathologist.

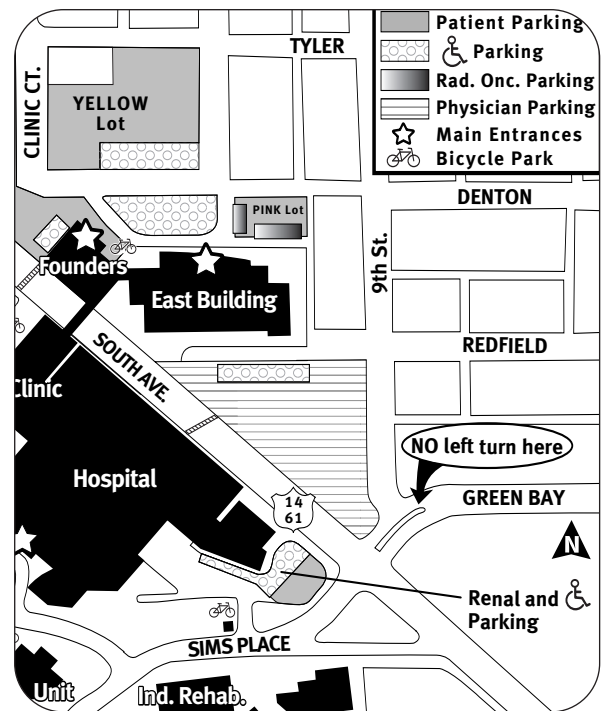
You will have a few stitches and a surgical dressing at the biopsy site. It is safe to shower the next day or about 24 hours after the procedure.

Results

Your surgeon will give you the pathology results, usually within one week.

If you have questions...

about your scheduled procedure, please call the Gundersen Lutheran Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care nurse at (608) 775-1100 or (800) 362-9567, extension 51100.



The Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care is in the East Building. Use the Denton Street entrance.

Staff use only: Request brochures at ext. 52886.

This educational information supports the care provided by your physician. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Call your healthcare provider immediately if you think you

may have a medical emergency. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider before starting any new treatment or when you have questions regarding a medical condition.