

Why a Breast Biopsy may be Necessary

A change in your breast, such as an abnormality detected by a mammogram, ultrasound, or MRI, may or may not be cancerous. To determine if it is malignant (cancerous) or benign (not cancerous), a physician must perform a biopsy. A breast biopsy is the removal of a sample of breast tissue for examination and is the only definitive way to determine if an abnormality is cancerous or not. Fortunately, 80% of biopsies result in benign diagnosis. If cancer is present, it is crucial that you know the type and stage as early as possible. Through early detection and accurate diagnosis, more treatment options are available and a complete recovery is more likely.

Whether the abnormality was seen on a mammogram, ultrasound, or MRI scan, helps determine which method of biopsy is most appropriate. For mammographic abnormalities, this can be done through a Stereotactic breast biopsy. For ultrasound abnormalities, ultrasound guided breast biopsy. And for MRI detected areas, an MRI guided breast biopsy.

Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

During this procedure you will lay on your stomach on a specially designed table with your breast placed through an opening in the tabletop. Your breast will be slightly compressed and held in position. Special x-rays will be taken and with the assistance of a computer the abnormality will be precisely located. Local anesthetic is used to numb the area and the biopsy probe is used to obtain the tissue samples. The tissue samples will be sent to the lab for diagnosis.

Ultrasound guided Breast Biopsy

During this procedure your breast is rescanned to locate the area to be biopsied. Local anesthetic is used to numb the area and the biopsy probe is used to obtain the tissue samples. The tissue samples will be sent to the lab for diagnosis.

MRI guided Breast Biopsy

During this procedure you will lay on your stomach as you did for your scan. Your breast will be slightly compressed and held in position. Local anesthetic is used to numb the area and the biopsy probe is used to obtain the tissue samples. The tissue samples will be sent to the lab for diagnosis.

Prior to the Exam

Over-the-Counter Medications:

Three days prior to your appointment do not take any aspirin products or cold medicines containing aspirin. You may take Tylenol.

Prescription Medications:

Please bring a list of your current medication(s).

If a doctor has prescribed aspirin or blood thinners, you must get their permission to discontinue it for three days prior to your appointment; do not make this decision on your own.

- If you feel anxious and would like Valium prior to the biopsy, you must have someone available to drive you home. You may eat a light meal prior to the exam.
- Caffeine will not affect the outcome of your biopsy.
- Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit.

Arriving for your biopsy appointment

When you get to the hospital (or to MRI in the case of MRI-guided biopsies), you will talk with the staff and radiologist who will be doing your test. They will explain the test and answer your questions.

After the Test

After the biopsy, a small marker may be placed within the breast for future reference to identify the location of the biopsy. Images will be taken to evaluate the marker site. There may be some bleeding where the probe was placed. This will be bandaged and a cold pack will be applied to relieve the swelling and bruising. You may take a non-aspirin pain reliever to alleviate any discomfort. You may notice some bruising of the area, which should resolve over time. If Valium was taken, you will need to have someone drive you home.

Results

Your results will be available to your ordering physician within two to three days. He or she will then contact you. If you have questions or concerns about getting results, please contact your physician.

Parking at Bellin Health

Please use our free valet parking service, where an attendant will park your car for you. The main entrance is located at 744 S. Webster Avenue (See map on back).

MRI-guided biopsies are performed at the 740 S. Van Buren Street location, just behind the hospital. Feel free to park right at MRI.

If you have any additional questions, please call a member of the Breast Health Team at (920) 433-7555 or toll free at (866) 438-4540.

Stereotactic, Ultrasound, or MRI BX

Based on the results of your last mammogram, ultrasound, or breast MRI, the radiologist recommends that an area of your breast be biopsied to obtain further information.

During the Procedure

Local anesthetic is used to numb the area where small samples of tissue are removed from the breast using a vacuum assisted probe, which is precisely guided to the correct location via x-ray, ultrasound, or MRI.

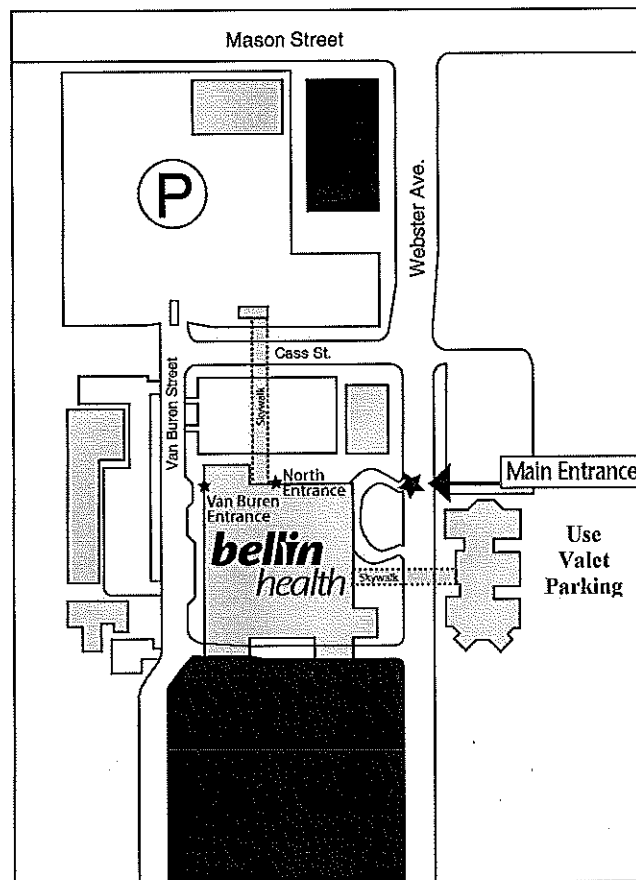


Image Guided Breast Biopsy
(Stereotactic, Ultrasound, or MRI BX)