

General Surgery & Surgical Oncology

Mammotome

Mammotome® Biopsy System

A breast biopsy using the Mammotome® Biopsy System can help a doctor make a highly accurate breast cancer diagnosis without the need for open breast biopsy surgery. Through the use of computer imaging (x-ray, ultrasound, and MRI), a breast abnormality can be clearly identified and mapped, even in its earliest stages. Digital imaging enables a physician to guide the Mammotome probe to gently collect tissue samples through one small ¼-inch incision. With the Mammotome® Biopsy System, a breast biopsy can be performed in an outpatient setting or a doctor's office under local anesthesia. A doctor can make a precise analysis with minimal pain, scarring and recovery time. The entire procedure generally takes less than an hour, and patients can return to their normal daily activities immediately afterward.

What you should know

The Mammotome® Biopsy System, used on over 4 million women, is minimally invasive and causes little discomfort. Yet, the Mammotome® Biopsy System is highly accurate in helping your doctor diagnose a variety of breast abnormalities, from those you can feel (palpable lesions) to those you cannot feel (non-palpable lesions).

Diagnoses of samples obtained with the Mammotome® Biopsy System are highly reliable, but unlike an open surgical biopsy, the Mammotome® Biopsy System lets you have your biopsy in a procedure room or doctor's office rather than an operating room. And your incision will be so small that you will require a single stitch.

Advantages

A breast biopsy using the Mammotome® Biopsy System can help a doctor make a highly accurate diagnosis of a breast abnormality without the need for open surgery. The Mammotome® Biopsy System can also be used for a non-cancerous breast lump such as a fibroadenoma. A lump may be reduced in size at the same time it is biopsied, often to the point where the lump may no longer be seen under ultrasound or felt during self examination.

Risks and Complications

The Mammotome® Biopsy System is for diagnostic use only and is not indicated for therapeutic use. Use of the Mammotome instruments is contraindicated for those patients where increased risk or complications may be associated with core removal or biopsy based upon the physician's judgment. Patients receiving anticoagulant therapy or who may have bleeding disorders may be at increased risk. As with any breast biopsy procedure, a breast biopsy with the Mammotome®

Biopsy System may present risks. Patients should consult with their doctors to discuss which type of breast biopsy procedure is appropriate for them.

How It Works

Through the use of imaging methods such as X-ray or ultrasound, a breast abnormality or breast lump can be detected, even in its earliest stages. Using the same imaging methods, a physician can guide a Mammotome probe into a suspicious area of the breast to gently collect the abnormal tissue through one small, ¼-inch incision.

With the Mammotome® Biopsy System, a breast biopsy can be performed in an outpatient setting under local anesthesia. A doctor can make a precise analysis with minimal pain, scarring and recovery time. The biopsy procedure takes less than an hour, and patients can return to their normal daily activities immediately.

The Mammotome® Biopsy System also can be used for fibroadenomas (non-cancerous breast lumps). Millions of women can now receive care in a doctor's office with the Mammotome® Biopsy System rather than having the lump removed by invasive surgery in an operating room. Since the Mammotome® Biopsy System can be used for non-cancerous breast lumps, women now have an option other than open surgery when facing a fibroadenoma.

What you can expect

Before your biopsy with the Mammotome® Biopsy System, you will be given a local anesthetic to minimize any discomfort. The procedure typically takes less than one hour, and you will be able to resume your normal activities immediately afterward.

1. During the procedure, you will either lie on your back or face down on a specially designed table.
2. The Mammotome probe is inserted only once through a ¼ inch incision in your breast.
3. Once the probe is positioned at the area of concern, it gently vacuums, cuts and removes tissue for examination and evaluation.
4. To monitor your breast health, your doctor may place a MammoMARK™ Biopsy Site Identifier to mark the biopsy site for a future follow-up. This marker is very small and you will not be able to feel it once it is placed in your breast.
5. The physician will remove the stitch and review the tissue pathology with the patient one week after the procedure.

6. The single incision is closed with a single stitch and a small adhesive bandage.

When should I call my health care provider?

Call your provider right away if:

- You develop a fever.
- You experience a foul odor from surgical site.
- Your wound becomes red, tender, or swollen, or it drains fluid.
- You can't control your pain or the pain is getting worse.

Call during office hours if:

- You have questions about the procedure or its result.
- You want to make another appointment.