



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Guided Breast Biopsy

Overview:

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breast is a noninvasive medical test that assists physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

MRI does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays). Using a powerful magnetic field, radio frequency pulses and a computer to produce detailed images of organs, soft tissues, bone and virtually all other internal body structures, MRI of the breast allows physicians to better evaluate many breast conditions that cannot be obtained by other imaging modalities such as mammography or ultrasound.

Common questions about Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Guided Breast Biopsy:

How is the procedure performed?

Image-guided and minimally invasive procedures such as MRI of the breast biopsy are most often performed by a specially trained radiologist and as an outpatient.

You will be positioned on a movable examination table face down on your stomach with the biopsy breast(s) positioned into the opening(s) in the table.

A technologist will insert an intravenous (IV) line into a vein in your hand or arm and a contrast material will be given intravenously. A local anesthetic will be injected into the breast to numb the area of the needle insertion.

Your breast(s) will be gently compressed between two compression plates (similar to those used in a diagnostic MRI exam), one of which is marked with a grid structure. Using the computer software, the radiologist will determine the correct insertion of the biopsy needle to withdraw a sample of fluid from the breast. After the sampling the needle is removed.

What preparation is needed?

Guidelines about eating and drinking before an MRI exam vary with the specific exam and also with the facility. Unless you are told otherwise, you may follow your regular daily routine and take medications as usual.

The radiologist will want to know if you have any serious health problems such as kidney disease and what surgeries you may have had. Please report any medications that you are taking including herbal supplements. Your physician should have had you discontinue taking any aspirin or blood thinners at least three days prior to this procedure.

If a contrast material will be utilized, the technologist may ask if you have any allergies of any kind.

Women should always inform their physician or technologist if there is any possibility that they may be pregnant.

Jewelry and other accessories should be left at home if possible.

If you have recently received an artificial joint, you should check with your physician prior to an MRI. In most cases, an MRI exam is safe for patients with metal implants except when you have:

- 1) Implanted defibrillators or pacemakers
- 2) Ear implants
- 3) Some types of clips used for brain aneurysms

What should I wear?

You may be asked to wear a gown during the exam or you may be allowed to wear your own clothing if it is loose fitting and has no metal fasteners.

How long will the MRI guided breast biopsy exam take?

The procedure usually lasts 45 minutes.

What can I expect after the exam?

Following your procedure you may be provided specific instructions pertinent to your procedure. For example you may be asked to contact your physician if you experience any redness, swelling, bleeding, drainage or heat in the breast.

When will my physician get the results?

A pathologist examines the specimen from the procedure and provides the findings to your physician.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?PG=greastbimr>