

Stereotactic core biopsy of the breast



Radiology Department

This leaflet provides you with information about our x-ray biopsy service. It explains what is involved and who you will meet.

The Radiology Department

Radiology is also known as the X-Ray or Imaging Department.

Who will I meet?

Receptionist/Clerical Staff: to help you make or change your imaging appointment and ensure your details are correct when you arrive for your appointment

Radiographer: a female radiographer or HCA (Health Care Assistant) will assist the radiologist.

Radiologist/Breast Clinician: a specialist doctor trained to take a small sample of your breast tissues. They also interpret images and report them for your consultant.

What is a Stereotactic Core Biopsy?

A core biopsy (biopsy) is a way of taking a tissue sample using a small biopsy needle. The tissue sample will help the doctors make a diagnosis for you.

Stereotactic means that x-rays are used to take images of the breast before and during the biopsy.

Are there any risks in having a stereotactic biopsy examination?

There are some slight risks associated with any needle test.

They include bruising and/or bleeding and soreness at the test site.

There is also the chance the tissue sample removed will not provide enough material for a diagnosis and the test may have to be repeated.

Very rarely, an infection may occur at the biopsy site.

We will use x-rays to provide images of the area to be sampled.

If you have any queries about the need for this test please contact your referring doctor.

What preparation is required?

- No special preparation is required.
- If you take blood thinning medication such as Warfarin, aspirin or Clopidogrel, please tell us before taking up your appointment. In addition, if you are having regular blood tests to check your INR (International Normalised Ratio), please bring your results card with you to your appointment.
- Please note we have no provision for child care.

Is there an alternative test?

Not usually, although a Breast Ultrasound may also help with your diagnosis.

Can I bring a relative or a friend?

Yes, but for safety reasons they cannot accompany you into the room, except in very special circumstances.

What will happen when I arrive?

- Please report to the Radiology reception desk.
- You will be asked to have a seat in our waiting area before being called into the mammography room.

What does the stereotactic biopsy entail?

Once you are in the privacy of the mammogram room, the radiologist will explain the procedure to you and obtain your written consent before starting the examination.

You will be asked to undress to the waist and lie on your side on the examination couch. The radiographers will position your breast in the x-ray machine. They will apply some compression to your breast so that it is held still. This means the radiologist can remove tissue samples very accurately.

X-ray images of your breast will now be taken. These will be looked at by the radiologist to make sure the correct area of your breast has been located.

The radiologist will then clean the skin over the area to be sampled and inject local anaesthetic into it. This will help make the removal of the sample more comfortable. Usually the biopsy needle makes a loud click when the sample is taken. The doctor will demonstrate this noise to you before the first sample is removed.

Once the anaesthetic has worked, a small cut is made in the skin through which the doctor will take the tissue sample. The biopsy needle is then inserted into that area and some tissues removed. Several tissue samples are usually taken. When the radiologist has finished taking samples the breast compression is released. The radiographer will clean and apply a dressing to the biopsied area.

The tissue samples are then sent to the pathology labs to be looked at using a microscope.

Will the stereotactic biopsy hurt?

Local anaesthetic injections will involve a small needle stab and stinging while it takes effect. You may also feel a “pulling sensation” as the sample is removed. More local anaesthetic can be given at any stage if you feel uncomfortable.

How long will it take?

Most stereotactic biopsies take about 40 to 50 minutes.

Are there any side effects?

There is usually some localised bruising. You may wish to take your usual pain relief as the local anaesthetic wears off. We recommend that you don't do any vigorous exercise immediately after the biopsy or go swimming until the dressing is removed.

We will explain to you and give you a written information sheet on your post biopsy care.

When will I get the results?

You will need to make an appointment to see your consultant for the test results one week later.

Privacy and dignity

We will try to make your visit to our department as comfortable as we can. You will see only female staff in the mammogram room.

Patient survey

We value your opinion about the service we provide. Please help us to improve the service by answering the voluntary questionnaire at the end of your appointment letter.

Reference source(s):

Reference RCR (Royal College of Radiologist)

https://www.rcr.ac.uk/system/files/publication/field_publication_files/BFCR%2813%295_breast.pdf

NHS choices Radiation dose

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Radiation/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Stereo Biopsy

<http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=breastbixr>

<https://www.breastcancercare.org.uk/information-support/have-i-got-breast-cancer/benign-breast-conditions/breast-calcifications>

For further information about Diagnostic Imaging Services at Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, please contact:





Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Egerton Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 7XX

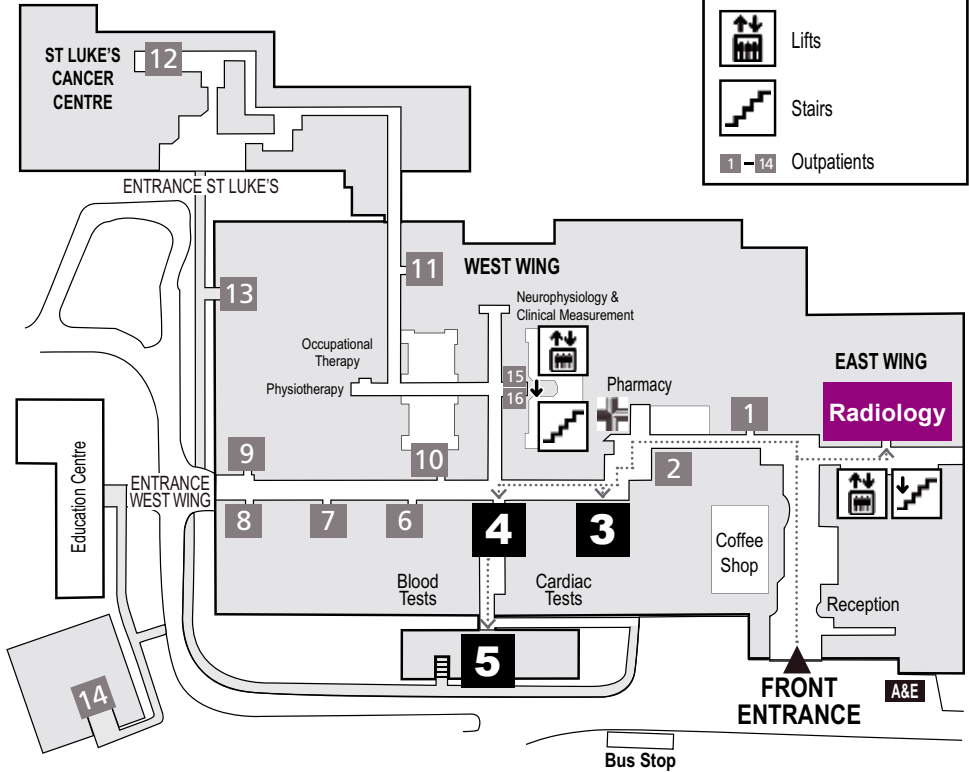
www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk

How to find the Radiology Department

Royal Surrey County Hospital map
Level B (Ground floor)

KEY

-  1 To clinics on next floor (above or below)
-  Lifts
-  Stairs
-  1-14 Outpatients



Contact details

If you have any questions or would like to know more about mammography, please contact the Radiology Department on:

Telephone: 01483 571122 **ext** 2050 or

Direct line: 01483 464150, 9am–5pm

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible.

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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