

Having a Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) of the breast and/or armpit



Radiology Department

This leaflet provides you with information about our ultrasound FNA 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 or axillary (armpit) tissues. They will also interpret images and report them for your consultant.

What is a FNA?

A Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) is a way of taking a small tissue sample using a very thin (fine) small needle. The tissue sample will help the doctors make a diagnosis for you.

Are there any risks in having an ultrasound FNA?

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 FNA site.

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, please tell us before taking up your appointment.
- Please note we have no provision for child care.

Is there an alternative test?

No.

Can I bring relative or friend?

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

What should 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 ultrasound/mammography room.

What does the ultrasound FNA entail?

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

You will be asked to undress to the waist and lie on the examination couch. You may be asked to lie with your arm resting above your head. This allows the radiologist to see and scan the breast and axilla (armpit).

The radiologist will 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. Once the anaesthetic has worked, a fine needle is then inserted into the area of concern and some tissues removed. Two

tissue samples are usually taken. The area will then be cleaned and a dressing/plaster applied.

The tissue samples are then sent to the pathology labs to be looked at microscopically.

Will the FNA hurt?

Local anaesthetic injections will involve a small needle stab and stinging while it takes effect.

How long will the procedure take?

Most scans will take about 20 minutes.

Are there any side effects?

No. You will be able to drive and can return to work afterwards. You may wish to take your usual pain relief once the local anaesthetic wears off.

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/ultrasound room.

Patient survey

We value your opinion about the service we provide. Please help us to improve the service by answering the voluntary questionnaire included with 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

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Biopsy/Pages/How-it-is-performed.aspx>

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

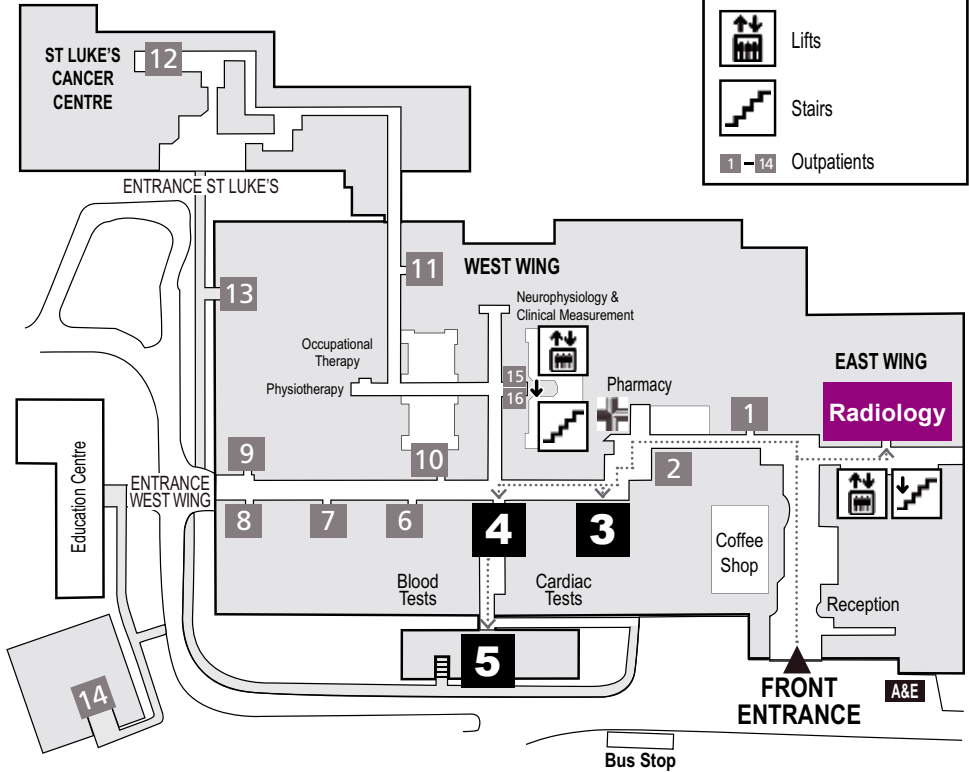
Notes

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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