

# Vacuum-Assisted Ultrasound excision of a breast lesion

Radiology Department



Patient information leaflet

This leaflet provides you with information about our ultrasound guided vacuum-assisted breast lesion excision 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:** female radiographers 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 vacuum-assisted excision of a breast lesion?

---

A vacuum-assisted excision of a breast lesion is a non-surgical procedure that can be used to remove small breast lumps. Only local anaesthetic is used, therefore no hospital admission is required. This procedure is performed using ultrasound guidance alongside a needle attached to a vacuum device which removes the breast tissue. This sample provides greater detail about the lesion.

## Are there any risks in having a vacuum-assisted excision of a breast lesion?

---

There are slight risks with any procedure.

- These include bruising, bleeding or swelling at the site where the tissue has been removed.
- There will be a small scar over the needle entry site. Occasionally the breast may change shape due to scarring.
- Very rarely an infection may occur at the site of the wound.
- It may not be possible to remove the entire lesion using this procedure, this may require further treatment.

## 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?

---

An alternative would be to have a surgical excision, where the lesion is removed in an operating theatre under a general anaesthetic. This involves hospital admission and recovery time will be longer, the scar may also be larger.

## Can I bring a relative or a friend?

---

Yes, but 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 vacuum-assisted excision involve?

---

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 lay on the examination couch. The vacuum biopsy machine and the ultrasound machine will be positioned near to the couch. The vacuum machine is quite noisy whilst in use.

The radiologist will use the ultrasound machine to locate the breast lesion, and once found, the area is cleaned and injected with local anaesthetic.

A small cut is made in the skin and the biopsy needle, which is attached to the vacuum device, is inserted into the breast using the ultrasound machine to guide it into position.

The radiologist will then start the excision, and the needle stays in the breast whilst the vacuum removes the pieces of breast tissue. Once the lesion has been removed, a small metal marker is placed in the breast in the area where the sample was obtained from. The marker is harmless and will cause no discomfort, and will allow the area to be identified if any future follow-up or treatment is required. The needle is then removed and firm pressure is applied for a short time to help minimise bleeding/bruising. The area is then cleaned and a suitable dressing applied.

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

## **Will the vacuum-assisted excision hurt?**

---

The local anaesthetic injection will involve a small needle and may sting 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. The local anaesthetic used may contain adrenalin, please inform us prior to the injection if this will be a problem.

## **How long will it take?**

---

Most vacuum-assisted excisions take about 50 to 60 minutes.

## **Are there any side effects?**

---

There is usually some localised bruising. You may wish to take paracetamol once the anaesthetic wears off. We recommend that you don't do any vigorous exercise, go swimming, or return to work if your occupation involves heavy lifting for 48 hours.

Some patients find it helps to support the breast with a bra.

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.

## **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 sources

---

- [www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/IPG156](http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/IPG156)
- [www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/breast-cancer/getting-diagnosed/tests-diagnose/vacuum-assisted-biopsy](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/breast-cancer/getting-diagnosed/tests-diagnose/vacuum-assisted-biopsy)

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](http://www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk)

## Useful websites

---





- Nice guidelines: [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

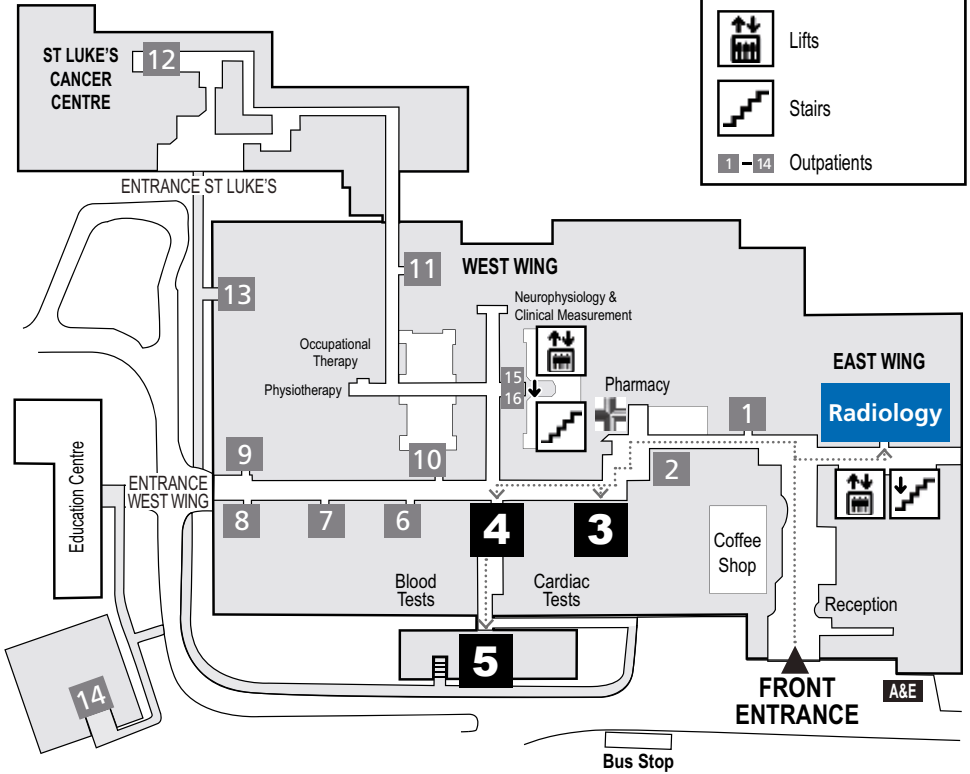
# How to find the Radiology Department

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.

**Telephone:** 01483 571122 **ext** 4596 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](mailto: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.

Past review date: February 2018

Future review date: February 2021

Author: Sharon Ellis

**PIN180205–1476**

