

Ultrasound guided breast Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) or Core Biopsy

Patient Information

CCDHB Radiology Service – Mammography Wellington Hospital

Please read this information sheet before your appointment.

You will be asked to sign a CCDHB informed consent form prior to your appointment.

If you require reading glasses please bring them with you to your appointment.

The purpose to a FNA (Fine Needle Aspiration) or Core biopsy is to remove a small sample of tissue to be studied under a microscope for diagnosis.

It is done by inserting a small needle into a breast lump allows a doctor to tell whether a lump is solid or cystic (contains fluid).

The procedure may be slightly uncomfortable. It will be performed or supervised by a Specialist Radiologist.

This procedure is performed under local anaesthetic. You will be able to drive home.

If a cyst is present the fluid will be removed and often the lump will not be felt afterwards. If fluid is not present an aspirate of cells will be obtained and a biopsy will be performed.

A core biopsy involves the removal of a sample of tissue from the abnormal area. Several core samples may be required. All tissue is sent for microscopic examination.

Afterwards there may be some bruising or bleeding and rarely infection. This varies from patient to patient. Serious complications are rare. Some minor discomfort may be felt for a few days but this should settle. A small scar may be left after a core biopsy.

Please take Paracetamol (e.g. Panadol) for pain relief.

Neurophen, Aspirin and Dispirin thin the blood and can cause bleeding.

Pain relief can be taken before the procedure and continued for relief as the local anaesthetic wears off.

You should have a follow up appointment to discuss results at the Breast Clinic.

This information will be discussed with you prior to your examination.

Feel free to ask any questions you may have at that time.