



Montclair Breast Center MRI
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MRI CORE BIOPSY PROCEDURE

An MRI Core Biopsy is performed to obtain a sample of breast tissue so that a histologic diagnosis can be made by a pathologist. The patients who have undergone needle biopsy here have said that the test was much better than they expected. Our emphasis is to not only reduce physical discomfort, but to also provide our patients with information and emotional support. Familiarity with the steps involved may help to alleviate your concerns, and hopefully, this letter will provide you with the basic information about the needle biopsy process.

Firstly, whenever possible, the Radiologist would like to see the actual prior MRI, Ultrasound and/or Mammogram films (the most current and past 2 years) along with the reports. Any previous pathology/surgery reports would also be helpful. We need this material at the time you schedule your appointment, or before the day of the biopsy.

You will need to fast 2 hours prior to the procedure. You should inform us when you are scheduling your appointment, if you are taking any "blood thinners" (Coumadin and Aspirin). If you have mitral valve prolapse, you will not need antibiotic prophylaxis. If you choose to take a sedative such as Valium or Ativan please inform us. You must also sign the form and bring it with you. You will also need to bring someone to bring you home if you take any sedative.

A biopsy is performed to obtain breast tissue for further analysis. An MRI core biopsy uses MRI images with contrast to guide the biopsy procedure. If the biopsy area does not enhance at the time of your biopsy appointment, the procedure will be cancelled.

The total appointment time is usually between one to two hours, but the actual procedure takes about 45 minutes on average. The additional time is needed to prepare for the procedure.

Prior to starting the procedure, the Radiologist will first review your prior exams and reports. Please use the restroom before your exam while you are in the waiting room. We will review with you the reasons for the test, the details of the procedure, and the alternatives that may be available. The risks of a needle biopsy will be explained to you, including:

- Infection: your doctor will use sterile technique to prevent infection.
- Bleeding: abnormal bleeding is a risk usually for the patient with a pre-existing bleeding disorder or difficulty clotting, or those patients taking "blood thinners" (Coumadin or Aspirin).

At the beginning of the biopsy procedure, the MRI technologist will start an IV. The patient will be lying face down on a table, and prior to beginning the needle biopsy, the Radiologist will:

- Clean the skin at the biopsy site.
- Numb the area (not the entire breast) with local anesthetic (Lidocaine) using a small needle.
- Using the images and computer guidance, we will obtain tiny pieces of breast tissue with a needle.
- A tiny titanium clip will be left at the site of biopsy. This poses no problem, nor will it set off alarms at the airport.
- Cover the tiny skin puncture site with steri strips (no stitches needed.)
- Mammograms films (2) will be needed after the procedure to check the clip placement.
- We will review with you the post procedural aftercare instructions (a separate information sheet detailing these will be given to you along with the telephone numbers to reach the doctor).

It is normal to be anxious before your test. We will do the utmost to provide you with the best care and to make you as comfortable as possible. If you need anything (an extra pillow, a cup of water, emotional support, a hand to hold, an explanation repeated, etc.), please inform the technologist or radiologist.

The radiologist will review the test results with you (the results are usually available in 2 or 3 workdays). If the areas in your breast requires additional surgery for further evaluation or treatment, we can help you arrange consultation with a breast surgeon who will provide you the best care possible with the utmost compassion.