Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Breast Core Biopsy: Aftercare

Version number: **6**
Last modified date: **12th November 2026**

Breast Core Biopsy: Aftercare

Patient Information

Breast Screening Unit, Thomas Linacre Centre

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What is a core biopsy?

A core biopsy uses a wide needle to take small pieces of tissue from the breast, under local anaesthetic.

An ultrasound scan or mammogram may be used as a guide to pinpoint the area, particularly when it is very small or cannot be felt.

The pieces of tissue are sent to the laboratory where they are looked at under a microscope. This helps to make a diagnosis.

How do I care for my breast after the core biopsy?

A small cut has been made in your skin and a dressing has been placed over this.

The dressing should be left in place for 3 days. It is important to keep the wound clean and dry.

How will I feel when I get home?

The local anaesthetic will wear off after about 2 hours. Your breast may ache and may also become bruised. You can take Paracetamol if the area is tender or painful.

Take it easy for the rest of the day; do not do any heavy lifting or a lot of moving around.

Signs to look out for?

Occasionally, the wound may start to bleed again. If this happens, press firmly on the dressing. If the bleeding continues or you notice swelling or a lump and you have any concerns, please contact us (see below).

Very occasionally, the wound may become infected. If this happens you will feel unwell, and your breast may be red and sore. You will need treatment for this, so please contact us (see overleaf).

When will I get the results?

Your results are usually ready within 10 days but sometimes it may take longer.

Results Appointment:

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Contact us

If you have any concerns at all, please contact us. We are available:
Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8:45am and 4:45pm.

Telephone any of the numbers below:

0300 707 5755

0300 707 5725

0300 707 5820

0300 707 5899

For emergencies out of these hours, please contact your GP or go to your nearest Emergency Department.



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