What you should know about your *Breast Needle Localization by Mammography*.

**Purpose:**

A breast needle localization by mammography is performed to localize an abnormality in the breast by placing a needle with a hookwire into the area under mammography guidance.

**Preparation:**

- You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam.
- You may also be asked to remove jewelry, eye glasses and any metal objects or clothing that interferes with the x-rays.
- Remove all deodorant, lotion, powder or Desitin-like products from under the arms or around the breast area.
- The surgical center will call you one to two days before your procedure to explain the preparation for the biopsy.

**Procedure: What to Expect**  
[Needle localization procedure - video](#)

- We will verify your name, date of birth and procedure you will be having done.
- Prior to signing the consent form to allow the procedure, the radiologist will talk with you about the exam and answer any questions you may have.
- Depending on the location of the area in your breast to be localized, you will be sitting or standing.
- The procedure will take 30-45 minutes from start to completion.
- A digital mammogram may be taken prior to the procedure being performed.
- The technologist will position your breast with a special compression paddle to see the area of interest to be localized. Once the area of interest has been localized using the mammography guidance, the radiologist will prep your skin by cleaning it with antiseptic. Your skin will be numbed using an injection of anesthetic. The hookwire will be placed. You may feel some pressure and discomfort during placement of the hookwire.
- A digital mammogram will be taken to confirm the hookwire placement. If the radiologist needs to adjust the position of the hookwire, another mammogram will be taken to check the placement.

**Risks and Benefits:**

- The risks and possible undesirable consequences associated with this procedure include, but are not limited to, bleeding, infection, allergic reaction to the blue dye or anesthetic, pneumothorax (collapsed lung) or rarely death.
After the Exam:

- When the radiologist is satisfied with the location of the hookwire, they may inject blue dye into the breast tissue using the wire that is already placed. This stains the tissue as a visual aid for your surgeon during the excision. Not all surgeons use the blue dye.
- The area will be dressed with gauze and a protective guard for your return to the surgical center. You will be transported via car driven by Women’s Imaging staff to your respective surgical center.
- You will be exposed to a very small amount of ionizing radiation which carries no long term risk. Women should always inform their physician or x-ray technologists if there is any chance of pregnancy.

Mammography Department Phone Number:
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