Imaging Patient Education

What you should know about your Stereotactic Core Breast Biopsy:

**Purpose:**
A stereotactic biopsy is performed to obtain a tissue sample from a questionable area in the breast using mammography guidance.

**Preparation:**
1. Consultation concerning the stereotactic core biopsy will be done by the surgeon who will be performing the biopsy. At this appointment, the surgeon will discuss with you the risks and benefits of the procedure. You will sign procedural consent forms and also will be given pre-biopsy instructions.
2. Fasting is not necessary prior to the stereotactic core biopsy procedure.
3. Plan to wear a comfortable two piece outfit the day of the procedure. You will be asked to undress from the waist up. A jacket type gown will be given to you to wear during the examination.
4. Please do not wear deodorant, lotions, perfumes, or powders on your breasts or under your arms the day of the procedure.

**Procedure:**
1. After arriving at the Breast Imaging Department, you will be escorted to the changing area and instructed to change into a gown.
2. After verifying your name and date of birth, the technologist will verify a list of your medications. You will be asked to mark “YES” on the breast to be biopsied.
3. For the procedure, you will be lying on your stomach with your breast extending through an opening in the table.
   - After raising the table, the technologist will position your breast so the area of interest is located within the small rectangular window of the compression plate. Your breast will remain compressed during the procedure.
   - Imaging will verify the correct area.
   - The surgeon will clean your skin with an antiseptic solution, then will inject a local anesthetic into the breast to numb it. A small nick will be made in the skin where the needle will be inserted.
   - After the needle is inserted to the area to be biopsied, images will be taken to document correct placement.
   - Multiple tissue samples (approximately 12) will be taken.
   - Post biopsy images will be taken.
   - A small titanium clip will be placed at the biopsy site for future reference.
   - After the biopsy, pressure will be applied to the site to stop any bleeding. The biopsy site will be dressed with steri-strips and a gauze bandage.
• A final two view mammogram will be performed to confirm placement of the titanium marker.

**After the Exam:**
1. Discharge instructions will be reviewed with you at the end of the procedure.
2. A follow-up appointment with the surgeon will be confirmed prior to leaving the Imaging suite.
3. Pathology results will be given to you by the surgeon at your follow-up appointment.

**If you have questions or need additional information, please call Gettysburg Hospital’s Mammography Department:**

(717) 338-3280.