Breast Localisation

Radiology Service

Information for patients

What is a Breast Localisation?
Breast localisation is a procedure performed under ultrasound or mammography guidance where a wire is inserted into abnormal breast tissue or a suspicious lump. This procedure assists the surgeon in correctly and accurately targeting the abnormal tissue or suspicious lump to be surgically removed.

What to Bring:
Bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.).

Preparation:
You may be required to have a blood test prior to your biopsy to check your blood clotting levels.

Eating/ drinking:
You will be required not to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to your procedure.

Medications:
Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any:

- Blood thinning medications (e.g. Warfarin, Xarelto, Rivaroxaban, Pradaxa, Apixaban, Eliquis),
- Antiplatelet medications (e.g. Clopidogrel, Plavix, Aspirin)
- Diabetic medication containing metformin.

You will be informed if you need to stop taking these medications before your procedure.

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your procedure.

Please bring a list of all your medications with you to your appointment.

Procedure:
On arrival in the hospital a nurse will discuss with you your medical history and dress you in a patient gown. A small plastic tube (cannula) may be inserted into a vein in your hand or arm.

The doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form.

Just prior to your scheduled surgery time, you will be transferred to the radiology department for the breast localisation procedure. You will be lying on a bed and the doctor will locate the abnormal breast tissue or suspicious lump using ultrasound or mammographic guidance.
Your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic wash, and local anaesthetic will be used to numb a small section of your skin on your breast. A small incision will be made and a breast localisation needle containing a wire will be passed through the area of concern. Once in the correct position the needle is then removed leaving the wire in place. The wire is then covered with a dressing and you will be transferred to theatre for the surgical removal of the abnormal breast tissue or suspicious lump.

**Post Procedure Care:**
Your surgeon will discuss follow up appointments and the surgery results with you.

**Radiation Risk:**
Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

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**References**
[Inside Radiology](http://www.insideradiology.com.au)  
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

If you would like to provide feedback or request this information in an alternative format, contact us at patient.information@alfred.org.au