

# Questions to Ask...



## *about breast biopsy*

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**ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE PROCEDURES INVOLVED.**

1. What type of biopsy will I have? Why? Will the entire lump be removed or just part of it?
2. Can the lump be aspirated with a needle (*the fluid drained or a small number of cells removed*)?
3. How reliable is a needle biopsy?
4. How long will the biopsy or aspiration take?
5. Will I be awake during the biopsy or aspiration and can it be done on an outpatient basis?
6. Will scar tissue from the biopsy hinder future mammograms?

**ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS BELOW WILL HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE RESULTS OF THE BIOPSY.**

1. If I do have cancer, what other test(s) should I have?
2. Will estrogen or progesterone receptor tests be done on the biopsied tissue you remove? What will these tests tell you? Will other special tests be done on the tissue?
3. How visible will the biopsy scar be?
4. Are there any aftereffects of a biopsy? If so, what are they?
5. After the biopsy, how soon will I know if I have cancer or not?
6. After a biopsy, if cancer is found, how much time can I take to decide what type of treatment to have?
7. Why is a second opinion necessary? Where should I go? What type of doctor should I see?
8. What do I need to take to a second opinion? Original pathology slides/blocks? X-rays? Scans?

