



*"A Partner in Breast Health"*

## Stereotactic Guided Breast Core Biopsy



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An Ontario Breast Screening Program Affiliate

### What is an x-ray guided core biopsy?

By now you are aware that your mammogram has found an abnormality in your breast. In order for your doctor to give you an accurate diagnosis of this abnormality, a tissue sample is needed to look at under a microscope.

An "stereotactic guided core biopsy" is a special procedure done to get these tissue samples.

This procedure requires very little recovery time and causes no significant scarring to your breast.

### Do I need to follow any special instructions to be ready for a core biopsy?

- If you are taking anticoagulants (blood thinners) such as Coumadin, or Aspirin (ASA) or other ASA containing medications, you should consult your physician as it will be necessary to adjust your medication for one week prior to the procedure.
- If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible (761-4808).
- The procedure will be done in the *Women's Breast Health Centre* (see map).

### Who will perform the procedure?

The procedure will be performed by a radiologist (a specialist medical doctor) or a resident (radiologist-in-training) under supervision. A specially trained x-ray technologist will assist.

### What happens to me during the procedure?

You will need to change into a hospital gown (from the waist up). You will then be asked to lie face down on a special biopsy table with an opening for your breast. The table will then be raised so that the radiologist and x-ray technologist can work from below.

Your breast will be compressed with a paddle, just as it was during your mammogram, and the area of interest localized. The skin will be washed with an antiseptic solution and "frozen" with some local anesthetic. The radiologist will insert a needle to obtain the tissue samples. These samples will be sent to pathology for testing.

The biopsy procedure takes about 30–45 minutes. When the procedure is complete, the compression paddle will be released and pressure will be applied to the site for 5–10 minutes.

A Surgical clip may be left as a marker and a unilateral mammogram will be necessary.

### Should I expect any after effects as a result of the procedure?

It is unlikely that there will be any significant after effects from this procedure. There may be a small amount of bleeding as well as a tingling sensation or discomfort in the breast as the local anesthetic wears off.

Strenuous activity (i.e. heavy lifting, tennis, golf, aerobics, etc.) should be avoided for 48 hours. There are no restrictions on diet.

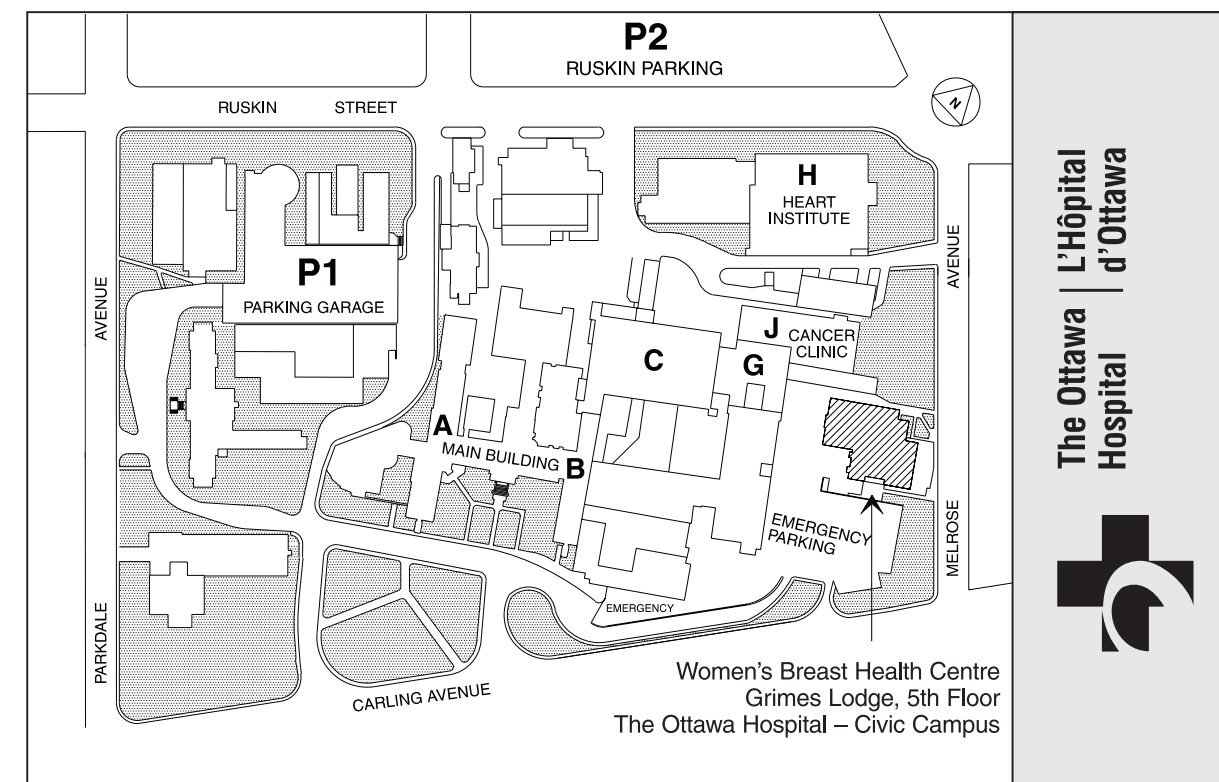
A pamphlet providing more complete information will be given to you before you leave.

### When and how will I know the results?

Your referring physician will receive a pathology report immediately upon our receipt (usually between 3-5 working days).



If you have other questions or concerns that have not been answered here, please feel free to ask our staff.



The Ottawa Hospital  
L'Hôpital d'Ottawa



Women's Breast Health Centre  
Grimes Lodge, 5th Floor  
The Ottawa Hospital – Civic Campus