

# Fine Needle Aspiration of the Breast

## *What to expect*

*You and your healthcare provider have decided that you need a fine needle aspiration to check an area in your breast. This procedure may be used to collect cells to be looked at under a microscope or to drain fluid from a cyst in your breast.*

## **What is fine needle aspiration?**

*Fine needle aspiration (FNA) is a procedure to aspirate (remove) cell samples. FNA uses a very thin needle to draw the cells into a syringe. Each sample takes less than 1 minute to remove. Most times, the whole procedure takes about 10 to 15 minutes. It will be done in your doctor's office.*

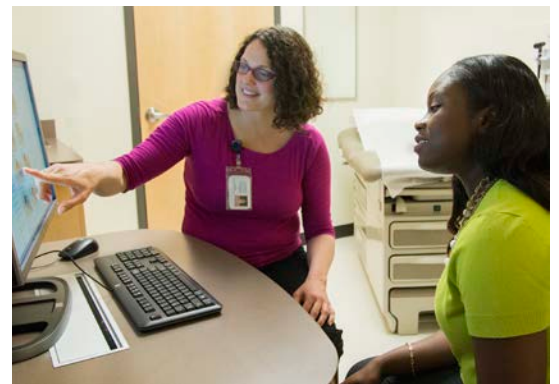
## **Why am I having this procedure?**

Your healthcare provider has advised you to have an FNA because a lump was found in your breast. FNA is one way to collect cells from the lump. The cell samples will be sent to the lab and checked under a microscope.

FNA is also used to drain fluid from some cysts. This may be done to examine the fluid and relieve pain.

## **How does it work?**

- We will ask you to undress from the waist up and then to lie on an exam table.
- Your doctor will inject a local *anesthetic* (numbing medicine) into the skin and deeper tissues of your breast. This anesthetic will keep you from feeling any pain.



*Be sure to ask your provider any questions you have about your FNA procedure.*

- When the tissue is numb, your doctor will insert a very thin needle into the numbed area. The needle will be moved around within the area. Tissue samples will be drawn up through the needle into a syringe.
- Most women have only a little discomfort during this procedure.

## When will I get the results?

Most times, we get your lab results within 7 days. A nurse will call you as soon as we have your results and a doctor has reviewed them. If you have not heard from us within 7 days, please call us at 206.598.5500.

## Do I need any care after the procedure?

- A small bandage will be placed over the site where the needle was inserted. You may remove the bandage after a few hours.
- You should have very little bleeding.
- The needle will leave a very small mark that will go away in a few days.
- You may have some breast tenderness or bruising for a few days. You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol and other brands) for minor pain. Do **not** use aspirin or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, and other brands) for pain because these may increase bleeding.
- Use a cold pack on the area to ease discomfort. Do **not** place ice directly on your skin. Always place a clean cloth between ice and your skin.

### Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

Women's Health Care Center:  
206.598.5500 weekdays, 8 a.m.  
to 5 p.m.

For emergencies after hours and on weekends and holidays, call 206.598.6190 and ask to page the Gynecology doctor on call.

## When to Call

Call us at 206.598.5500 and ask to speak with the Breast Clinic nurse if you have:

- Swelling or redness that does not go away
- Bleeding at the needle site that does not stop
- Fever higher than 101°F (38.3°C)
- Pain that is not eased by acetaminophen (Tylenol)