

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.*

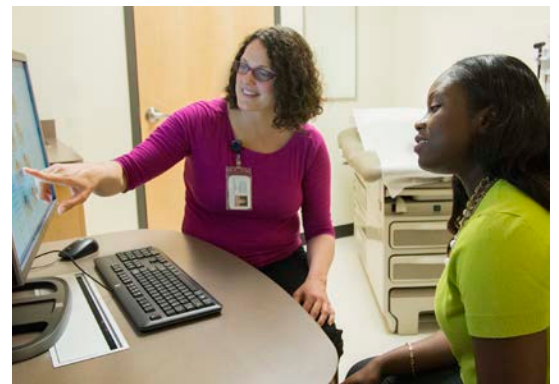
Why am I having this procedure?

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)