

Patient Information Leaflet

Localisation Procedure

Prepared by: Clinical Nurse Specialists—Breast Care

**August 2012
Review due: August 2015**



What is a localisation procedure?

This procedure involves using further x-rays or ultrasound, to precisely select the area of the breast to be removed, a small wire is then passed into the tissue, or a surface mark placed on the skin with a permanent marker, and left in place until surgery.

Why am I having this procedure?

This procedure is used to enable the surgeon to locate and remove the correct piece of breast tissue.

What happens before the procedure?

You will be asked to go to the Breast Screening Unit on the morning of your operation. Please wear separates i.e. skirt/trousers and top, as this will be easier for you.

When you arrive in the unit you will be shown through to the changing area and be asked to remove the top half of your clothing. You will then be taken to the room where the wire will be inserted or the skin will be marked.

Wire Localisation

The skin will be numbed with a local anaesthetic and a needle will be introduced through the skin, a small wire is then passed into the tissue.. Once the wire is in place two further x-rays are taken to confirm it is in the right place. The wire will remain in the breast to allow the surgeon to exactly locate the area under investigation. A small dressing will then be applied to ensure that the wire is comfortable and does not move.

Ultrasound Marking

Ultrasound skin marking simply involves surface marking of the skin with a permanent marker. An estimation of depth is made to enable the surgeon to localise the correct piece of tissue.

What happens after the procedure?

After the procedure you will be escorted to the ward, from where you will be taken to theatre, under a general anaesthetic the surgeon will make a small incision in the breast and use the surface marker or follow the wire to enable them to remove the correct area of tissue.

You may need to stay in overnight or be treated as a day case, you will be informed of this prior to admission.

What are the risks?

It is normal to have bruising and discomfort after the procedure. Other rarer complications include infection, bleeding and a blood clot at the site of the wound.

After the procedure:

- Please bring a comfortable bra with you for support after your operation.
- Keep the wound clean and dry
- The staff will advise you when you can bath or shower
- Dressings will be carried out by the district/practice nurse if necessary

- Most stitches are dissolvable but if not the nurse will remove them at your outpatient appointment
- You may feel tired after the anaesthetic so take things gently for a few days.

When to seek advice:

- If you have any concerns
- If your wound becomes red and hot or painful
- If the area swells and becomes uncomfortable

Contact Details

This leaflet should help you through your operation. It is a general guide and does not cover everything. If you have any queries or problems please contact us:

The Breast Care Team 01983 534562

Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm If we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on the answer phone and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Or out of hours your GP or phone 111

You can get further information on all sorts of health issues through NHS interactive available through Sky TV or online at: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>

For Health advice and out of hours GP service please call Island Health Line on 0845 6031007

We Value Your Views On Our Service

If you wish to comment on the care which you, your relative or friend has received, we will be pleased to hear from you. Please speak to the person in charge of the ward, clinic or service in the first instance or ask them to contact the Quality Team. If you wish to contact them directly, telephone on 534850.

Alternatively you may prefer to write to:

Chief Executive
Isle Of Wight NHS Trust
St Mary's Hospital
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TG

You can also share any concerns you have about our services with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 03000 61 61 61 or at enquires@cqc.org.uk

All NHS sites are no smoking areas.

If you would like help and advice to stop smoking please call: 01983 550386 to talk to Island Quitters.

Ref: BC/LP/4