Core Needle Biopsy

Your doctor has decided that an area on your body needs to be examined in more detail. Your doctor will do a core needle biopsy to remove a small sample of tissue from the area so it can be looked at under a microscope.

Who will help with the biopsy?

- A surgical oncologist will do the biopsy
- A pathologist will check the tissue from the biopsy under the microscope

How will the core needle biopsy be done?

A core needle biopsy uses a special needle to take small tube-like samples of tissue. Before the procedure, the doctor will numb the area with a medicine called Lidocaine. The biopsy needle is then inserted and several samples of tissue are taken and will be looked at under the microscope.

Steri-strips (thin white strips that hold the biopsy site closed) and a compression bandage will be put on the incision. The compression bandage needs to remain in place for 48 hours. The biopsy site needs to remain dry for 48 hours.

After 48 hours, the compression bandage can be removed and the biopsy site can be left open to air. The steri-strips should not be removed, they will fall off on their own. If you have any pain at the biopsy site, you may take acetaminophen (Tylenol).
How is the tissue from the biopsy checked?

The cells or tissue removed during the biopsy are sent to the pathology department to be tested. The following tests will be done:

- **Frozen section** - this test is a quick look done the day of the biopsy. This test provides an early diagnosis until the whole tissue sample can be checked.

- **Permanent staining** - this test looks at the whole tissue sample. The final results will be available in about 5 working days. Your doctor will discuss the results with you at your follow-up appointment.

When should I call the doctor?

You should contact your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever 101 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Pain that is not relieved by pain medicine
- Continued bleeding from the biopsy site