



York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Localisation Seed Insertion

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

The Breast Imaging Unit

York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Telephone: 01904 725591

yhs-tr.northyorkshire.breastscreeningservice@nhs.net

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What is a seed localisation?

Seed localisation is a procedure used when an area of breast tissue needs removing but cannot be felt by examination and the surgeon needs a guide to ensure they remove the correct piece of tissue. The seed used in the localisation is a tiny device that can be inserted into the breast tissue which is then detected by the surgeon at the time of your operation. The seed will be removed during your surgery.

The seed is inserted by the breast imaging team while you have an ultrasound scan or mammogram. The procedure will usually be done one to two weeks prior to your surgery. The procedure usually takes half an hour to an hour and is done as an outpatient procedure.

What are the benefits of using the seed localisation?

Localisation seed insertion allows accurate identification of the area to be removed and will be placed ahead of your surgery.

How is the seed inserted?

The seed is inserted by a radiologist or a consultant radiographer. The procedure is similar to the core needle biopsy you may have had on your breast that confirmed your diagnosis.

You will attend the breast unit and have an ultrasound scan or mammogram of your breast to locate the correct area. A local anaesthetic (numbing medicine) will be injected into your breast. This may sting for a few seconds before the area is numb. The radiologist or radiographer will then use a small thin needle to place the seed into the area of breast that needs to be removed. You may feel some pressure in your breast during the procedure, this is not normally painful. If you do feel any pain, please make the staff aware so that more local anaesthetic can be given. You will not be able to feel the seed once it is inserted and a small dressing will be placed over the puncture site.

Following the procedure, an “x ray” will be performed to confirm the seed is in the correct position.

How long will the procedure take?

The procedure usually takes approximately 30 minutes, but please allow one hour for the whole appointment. There is a waiting area available for anyone who may wish to accompany you.

What should I wear?

It is a good idea to wear trousers or a skirt and top as you will be asked to undress above the waist.

Will it hurt?

The local anaesthetic may sting slightly as it is injected but the area quickly becomes numb. Most patients will feel pressure in the biopsied area but not pain.

Are there any risks associated with the procedure?

Before you leave the Breast Unit, a member of staff will check your dressing to ensure there is no bleeding.

You may have some mild discomfort and bruising. If you do have discomfort or pain, then you can take your regular pain relief. Do not take any medicine which contains aspirin or ibuprofen. Discomfort often persists for a few days after the procedure.

Mammograms use a small dose of X ray radiation, which very slightly increases lifetime cancer risk. However, NHS machines use low doses, and the benefits outweigh the risks.

What instructions should I follow after the localisation seed insertion?

You will be given a leaflet with instructions for your aftercare following the procedure. Most women feel fine after the procedure and return to their normal routine.

You can return to work and most activities the following day. Avoid strenuous activity/heavy lifting for 24 hours.

You may shower the following day but do not soak in a bath or go into a swimming pool for 48 hours. It is recommended that you wear a comfortable supportive bra for 24 hours.

What if I have any further questions?

Please contact the Specialist Breast Care Nurses on 01904 726775 if you have any questions or concerns before or after your appointment.

The seed insertion will be performed by a specialist team who will be able to answer any questions during the procedure.

What if I am unable to attend this appointment?

Please telephone the Breast Imaging Unit on 01904 725592 as soon as possible so that the appointment can be re-arranged.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: The Breast Imaging Unit, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE, telephone 01904 725591 or email: yhs-tr.northyorkshire.breastscreeningservice@nhs.net

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website:

www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

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