



# Image-Guided Breast Biopsies



JOHNS HOPKINS  
MEDICINE

In an **image-guided breast biopsy**, breast tissue or cells are removed for examination under a microscope to identify if cancer or other abnormalities exist.

## Types of Image-Guided Biopsies

The type of imaging used for your biopsy will depend on the location of the abnormality and how it is best seen.

- **Fine-needle aspiration biopsy.** Using ultrasound, a very thin needle is placed into a possible cyst to remove a small sample of fluid.
- **Ultrasound-guided core needle biopsy.** Using ultrasound, a needle is guided into a mass to remove small cylinders from the mass (also called cores).
- **Stereotactic biopsy.** Uses a mammogram to guide a vacuum core biopsy of a mass or calcifications.
- **MRI-guided biopsy.** Uses an MRI to guide a vacuum core biopsy of an abnormality seen only on an MRI.
- **3-D stereotactic biopsy.** Uses 3-D mammography to guide a vacuum core biopsy of abnormalities seen only on a 3-D mammogram. The biopsy procedure is often faster than standard stereotactic biopsy.

*These biopsies are done using local anesthesia, similar to the dermatologist or dentist.*

*As with any procedure, complications of bleeding or infections may occur, though rarely.*

For questions, call the biopsy coordinator  
[hopkinsmedicine.org/](https://hopkinsmedicine.org/)



## These biopsies may be performed to evaluate:

- Microcalcifications seen on the mammogram (small calcium deposits in breast tissue)
- A cystic or solid mass seen on the mammogram or ultrasound
- A cystic or solid mass that corresponds to a palpable lump in the breast

*While any of these may be cancerous, they are more commonly benign.*

## Our biopsy coordinator will:

- Schedule your appointment
- Ask you about your current medications
- Give you instructions for preparation
- Answer questions you may have

## Helpful tips for your procedure day:

- The breast imaging specialist will explain the procedure to you and give you a chance to ask any questions you might have.
- Prior to leaving, the breast imaging team will give you post procedure instructions.
- Wear a supportive bra.
- Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit.
- You will be notified of your results by phone a few days after your biopsy.

or at the location where you scheduled.

[imaging/breast-biopsy](#)

### **Bethesda**

Biopsy by 3-D stereotactic, ultrasound and MRI  
6420 Rockledge Drive  
Suite 3100  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
**301-581-7139**

### **Columbia**

Biopsy by ultrasound  
11055 Little Patuxent Parkway  
Suite L9  
Columbia, MD 21044  
**443-917-6270**

### **Green Spring Station**

Biopsy by 3-D stereotactic, ultrasound and MRI  
Pavilion III  
10803 Falls Rd., Suite 1100  
Lutherville, MD 21093  
**410-583-2752**

### **White Marsh**

Biopsy by 3-D stereotactic and ultrasound  
4924 Campbell Blvd.  
Suite 105  
White Marsh, MD 21236  
**443-442-2441**

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### **Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center**

Biopsy by 3-D stereotactic and ultrasound  
601 N. Caroline St.  
4th Floor Breast Center  
Baltimore, MD 21287  
**410-955-7288**

### **Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center**

Biopsy by ultrasound  
301 Mason Lord Drive, Suite 1300  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
**410-550-6706**

### **Sibley Memorial Hospital**

Biopsy by 3-D stereotactic, ultrasound and MRI  
Bldg A, ground floor  
5255 Loughboro Rd, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
**202-537-4966**

[hopkinsmedicine.org/imaging](https://hopkinsmedicine.org/imaging)