

MRI-Guided Biopsy

MRI-guided biopsy is used when an abnormal area cannot be visualized well by mammogram or ultrasound.

On the day of your scan, arrive one hour before the scheduled time of your scan to register. The exam will take approximately two hours.

Once in the Medical Imaging Department, you will change into a hospital gown and be provided with a secure locker for your clothes and valuables. You will be given some forms to read and complete.

A technologist will explain the test and answer any questions you may have.

You will be positioned face down on a moveable table in the MRI suite. The breast(s) will be positioned into a cushioned opening and compressed. The area to be sampled will be precisely located and you will be given a local anesthetic to numb the area.

A needle will be inserted to the site of the abnormality and samples will be taken. A titanium marker may be left in the breast at the sample site to identify the location for possible future surgery.

A pathologist will examine the tissue samples which will take several days. Your doctor will give you the results.

The Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care (Breast Health Centre) opened in 2006. Located on the main floor of Saskatoon City Hospital, the Breast Health Centre works closely with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to offer the people of Saskatchewan the best up to date standard of care in breast health.



Our Vision

*Healthiest people
Healthiest communities
Exceptional service*

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact us at:

Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care

Breast Health Centre

Saskatoon City Hospital
701 Queen Street
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0M7

Telephone: (306) 655-8686

We are open Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m.
to 4:00 p.m.

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Breast MRI and MRI-guided Biopsy



*Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care
Breast Health Centre
Saskatoon City Hospital*



What is a Breast MRI?

Breast MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) technology combines magnetic fields, radio waves and a computer system to obtain cross-sectional (very thin image slices) of a breast. It is used to:

- detect, evaluate, and determine the advancement (also known as staging) of breast cancer.
- detect small lesions that may not be visible with other technologies.
- distinguish between scar tissue and tumours
- check for leaking or ruptured breast implants.

Breast MRI results

Breast MRIs are analyzed by experienced radiologists. The results of the test are sent to your primary care physician or referring physician.

MRI captures images of soft body tissues. It is used as another tool to help detect and evaluate abnormalities.

Special considerations

Continue to take your usual medications before your exam, unless you are told otherwise by your physician. If you have claustrophobia (a fear of enclosed spaces) you can ask your doctor to prescribe a mild sedative.

You will be asked if you have any allergies or serious health problems such as kidney disease. These conditions may prevent you from receiving the contrast dye needed for the scan.

Do not wear jewellery, watches, hearing aids, hairpins, removable dental work or eyeglasses near the scanner as they can interfere or damage the magnetic field of the scanner. Also plan to leave your wallet with a loved one or friend as credit cards can also damage the scanner.

MRI is usually safe for patients with metal implants, but recent implants may require another imaging procedure. Having metal objects in the body, such as shrapnel, may require a preliminary x-ray.

Tell your technologist if you have:

- a tattoo that used iron dye.
- artificial heart valves, artificial limbs or joint prostheses.
- implanted drug infusion lines or ports, nerve stimulators or other electronic devices.
- metal pins, screws, plates or surgical staples.

MRI procedure

On the day of your scan, arrive one hour before the scheduled time of your scan to register. The exam will take approximately

one and a half hours.

After registering, you will go to the reception desk in the Medical Imaging Department to check in. You will then change into a hospital gown and a secure locker will be provided for your clothes and valuables. You will be given some forms to read and complete.

A technologist will explain the test and answer any questions you may have.

If you are going to receive contrast dye, which is common in cancer screening, an intravenous line will be started. When ready, the technologist will take you into the MRI suite and position you on the MRI bed. An MRI machine looks like a big donut and the bed "floats" in the middle. You will lie face down with your breasts hanging down in cushioned openings. The bed will then be moved into the MRI, and the technologist will go into an adjacent room to perform the exam.

The procedure requires you to be in the MRI for approximately 30 minutes. Headphones will be provided to minimize the noises produced by the magnet and the technologist will talk to you through the headphones. A "call bell" will be placed in your hand in case you need urgent attention during the scan.

Once completed, the technologist will confirm the images are clear and you will be taken out of the MRI suite and the intravenous line removed.

You can resume normal activities once the procedure is complete.