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Surgical Oncology of the Breast

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Patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility: Northwest Women's Breast Center in Springdale

## **STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY**

### **• WHAT IS A STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY?**

- A safe and minimally invasive form of breast biopsy used to obtain samples of abnormal breast tissue that are seen on your mammogram that cannot be seen by using an ultrasound machine.
- The abnormality in your breast is precisely located with a computer-guided imaging system and removed with a vacuum-assisted needle.
- Stereotactic biopsies are most commonly done if you have been diagnosed with microcalcifications (tiny collections of calcium located within the breast), and occasionally for breast lumps that cannot be seen using an ultrasound machine.
- Most of the time, calcifications are harmless; however, some cancers appear as clusters of microcalcifications on mammogram, and therefore should not be ignored.
- Stereotactic biopsies are done on an outpatient basis – there is no hospital stay.
- Stereotactic biopsies require only a very small incision (about one-eighth of an inch), which helps minimize the amount of pain experienced.

### **• WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER YOUR BIOPSY:**

- You may eat & drink before the biopsy, although we recommend not eating a heavy meal, since you will be lying on your stomach for the biopsy.
- You will be given a prescription for Valium to have filled before the biopsy. Bring the Valium with you to the biopsy and take 1 – 2 tablets after you have signed your paperwork. You **MUST** have someone drive you home from the biopsy.

- For the biopsy, you will be lying on your stomach on a special table with a hole through which your breast is placed and aligned with the biopsy unit underneath.
- Your breast is then cleansed and Dr. Cross will inject local anesthetic to numb the biopsy area. Your breast will then be compressed as in a mammogram, a small incision is made, and the computerized imaging system precisely guides the needle to the correct area. Several samples of tissue are collected.
- After the needle is removed, a clip (also called a "marker") will be placed in the area of the biopsy. This allows the area to be identified by mammogram or ultrasound in the future if needed.
- A mammogram will be taken of your breast after the procedure.
- Once the procedure is completed, steri-strips will be placed over the incision. These need to stay on for about 7 days. An Ace bandage will then be applied to reduce bleeding and swelling. You can remove the Ace wrap and shower 24 hours after the biopsy.
- You will need to apply ice to the area for 24 hours off and on.

- **RESULTS**

- It usually takes 24 – 48 hours to receive the results from pathology. We will contact you as soon as we get the results, even if it is on a weekend.

- **RISKS**

- A stereotactic biopsy is a very safe procedure with quick recovery time and no restrictions following the biopsy. You should be able to return to work and/or daily activities the following day. Certain risks do apply, which include bleeding, infection or a hematoma (large bruise). Please contact us if any of these complications occur or if you have any questions.

Directions to *Northwest Women's Breast Center*  
*702 Shipley St.*  
*Springdale, AR 72764*

**Going North on 71 Business:**

1. Turn right (East) onto Robinson Ave (you will see Price Cutter grocery store on your right as you are turning).
2. Go 2 blocks and turn left (North) onto Shipley St.
3. Follow Shipley St. to the end. Northwest Breast Center is on the left at the end.

**Going South on 71 Business:**

1. Turn left (East) onto Robinson Ave. (you will see Price Cutter grocery on your right as you are turning).
2. Go 2 blocks and turn left (North) onto Shipley St.
3. Follow Shipley St. to the end. Northwest Breast Center is on the left at the end.

**Coming from Interstate 540:**

1. Take Exit 72 and go east (into Springdale) on Hwy. 412.
2. Travel through approximately 11 stop lights (there are new ones periodically).
3. You will go through the 71 B intersection, (you will pass Price Cutter grocery on your right), and go 2 blocks.
4. Turn left (North) onto Shipley St.
5. Follow Shipley to the end. Northwest Breast Center is on the left at the end.