

Ultrasound is an excellent way to evaluate breast abnormalities. Ultrasound-guided breast biopsy is a highly accurate way to evaluate suspicious masses within the breast that are visible on ultrasound, whether or not they can be felt on breast self-examination. The procedure prevents the need to remove tissue surgically, and also eliminates the radiation exposure that comes from using x-rays to locate a mass. Ultrasound-guided biopsy occasionally will miss a lesion or underestimate the extent of disease. If the diagnosis remains uncertain after a technically successful procedure, surgical biopsy will be necessary.

### **Precautions:**

Tell your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to the medicine lignocaine or the numbing medicine used at the dentist's office. If you take aspirin, warfarin, clopidogrel or other medicines that affect blood clotting ('blood thinning medications'), talk with your doctor. It **may be** necessary to stop these medicines before your test.

### **What are the risks involved?**

There is a risk of bleeding and formation of a haematoma, a collection of blood at the biopsy site. The risk, however, appears to be less than one percent of patients.

An occasional patient has significant discomfort, which can be readily controlled by non-prescription pain medication, like Panadol

Infection can occur whenever the skin is penetrated, but the chance of infection requiring antibiotic therapy is less than one in one thousand.

Doing a biopsy of tissue deep in the breast carries a slight risk that the needle will pass through the chest wall, allowing air around the lung that could collapse a lung. This is a rare occurrence.

*"Respect, communication, involvement"*

The staff in Diagnostic Imaging want to make sure that you have understood the information that we have provided personally, as well as the information contained in the information sheet. We believe your understanding about why and how we are planning to assist you is very important.