

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Breast Biopsy

If you have a lump or change in your breast or an abnormal finding on a [screening mammogram](#), you will have follow-up tests. If cancer can't be ruled out with a [diagnostic mammogram](#), [breast ultrasound](#) or [breast MRI](#), you will need a biopsy. A [biopsy](#) removes cells or tissue from the suspicious area of the breast. The cells or tissue are studied under a microscope to see if cancer is present. A biopsy is the only test that can diagnose and confirm breast cancer.

If you need a biopsy, you may feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to help start the conversation.

Q: What type of biopsy will I have? Why do you recommend this type of biopsy for me? How accurate is it?

A: _____

Q: Who will do the biopsy? Will the entire lump be removed or just part of it?

A: _____

Q: How long will the biopsy take? Will I be awake? Will I feel anything? Can I go home the same day I have the biopsy?

A: _____

Q: What are the possible side effects of the biopsy? How long will they last? What problems should I report to you (i.e., tenderness, pain, numbness along the scar)?

A: _____

Q: When will I be able to resume my normal activities?

A: _____

Q: After the biopsy, when will I get the results of the biopsy?

A: _____

Q: What other tests will be done on the tumor?

A: _____

Q: Will the tumor be saved? If so, where and can it be accessed again, if needed?

A: _____

Q: If I have breast cancer, who will talk with me about my treatment options?

A: _____

Notes:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) or visit komen.org. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) komen.org