Vacuum Assisted Excision of Breast Lesion
Radiology

This leaflet is for patients who have been offered an ultrasound guided vacuum assisted excision of their breast lesion. It has been produced to give you a greater understanding of what the procedure will involve.

It will try to answer your questions but if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to ask. The dedicated breast care nurses are available should you need to discuss further:

Terry-Anne Leeson 01895 279 711
Tricia Mitchell-Edwards 01895 279 794
Nadine Teuton 01895 279 738

Some of the information in this leaflet has been extracted from NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) website (www.nice.org.uk/IPG156).

WHY HAVE I BEEN OFFERED THIS PROCEDURE?

In the past, benign (non-cancerous) breast lesions that have been selected for removal would have all been removed by an open surgery procedure which required admission, general anaesthesia and an incision in the breast. However, a new technique is available at Hillingdon Hospital which can be offered to patients who fulfil the criteria for suitability. This is a minimally invasive procedure that does not require admission, general anaesthesia or open surgery.

WHAT IS VACUUM ASSISTED EXCISION?

Image-guided vacuum-assisted excision biopsy is a non-surgical procedure that can be used to remove benign (non-cancerous) lumps in the breast. A needle is inserted into the breast which uses a combination of sucking and cutting to remove breast tissue.
HOW WILL IT BE PERFORMED?

You will receive a local anaesthetic injection into the skin of the breast at the site of the lump. A small opening is made in the breast. A needle attached to a suction device is then placed into the area of the lump.

Small amounts of breast tissue are sucked away through the needle, and this is repeated until the lump appears to have gone. The doctor (Radiologist) uses ultrasound images of the area to monitor the procedure. Sometimes other types of imaging are used and this will be explained to you at the time.

When the lump appears to have been removed, the needle device is taken out and pressure is applied for a short time to help stop bleeding.

The doctor may ask for your consent to leave a tiny, metallic clip on the site of the lump, this will be used to identify the site if surgery is needed at a later date. The clip is made of titanium and will cause no harm. It will not set off metal detectors.

ADVANTAGES OF VACUUM EXCISION

In carefully selected patients, the advantages over open surgery are:

- No admission to hospital
- No general anaesthesia
- Smaller incision

It is expected that your recovery time should therefore be shorter than with open surgery.

RISKS

- There is a small risk of bleeding, in very rare instances, this may require surgery
- Feeling faint during the procedure
- Haematoma formation (a blood filled swelling) at the site of the lump that has been removed
- Infection
Sometimes the doctor may miss bits of the lump. This may require surgery at a later date.

Occasionally a woman might be found to have cancer after having the procedure even if a biopsy before the procedure showed that the lump was benign.

If you are taking any anticoagulants please let the doctor as you may be at increased risk of bleeding

**ALTERNATIVES**

If you are not happy to have a vacuum excision, then you can discuss your surgical options with your breast team.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS?**

- You will stay in the department for approximately one hour to ensure that the bleeding has stopped and that you feel well enough to go home
- You will be advised to support the breast with a bra
- Keep the area dry for 48 hours and to take paracetamol if there is pain after the procedure
- You are discouraged from taking ibuprofen or aspirin containing medications as these have been shown to increase the bruising and swelling
- You will see your breast team in clinic approximately one to two weeks following the procedure to discuss the results of the test.
Languages/ Alternative Formats
Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format. Please contact: 01895 279973

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Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem informacji pacjenta (patient information) pod numerem telefonu: 01895 279973.

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