

Examinations Available

General Ultrasound

Abdomen, Renal, Breast, Thyroid,
Testes

Obstetric & Gynaecological

First, Second & Third Trimester,
First Trimester Screening, (NT
Down Syndrome Screening), Pelvic

Musculoskeletal

Shoulder, Groin, Hip, Ankle etc
(Cortisone injections)

Vascular

Deep Vein Thrombosis, Arterial
Studies, Renovascular, Carotid
Duplex, Abdominal Aorta

Echocardiography

Adult & Paediatric

Appointment Times

8.30 am—5.00 pm
Monday to Friday

Appointments can be made during
office hours which are:

9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Monday to Friday

Dr Mario Vlastic

*Medical Imaging Department,
Proserpine Hospital,
Cnr. Herbert & Taylor Street,
Proserpine, Qld. 4800*

Phone: (07) 4945 5000
Fax: (07) 4945 5200
Email: mario.dui@westnet.com.au
Web:
diagnosticaltrasoundimaging.com.au



Breast - FNA Biopsy Patient Information



Dr Mario Vlastic

M.B., B.S. M.Hlth. Sc. (Med. Sono.)
P.G. Dip. Echo.

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What is a fine needle biopsy?

Your doctor has requested that you have a fine needle biopsy of an area of your breast. A small needle will be introduced into the area in question and some cells from this area will be drawn into the tip of the needle using a syringe. Slides are then prepared and sent to a pathologist. The pathologist is then able to determine whether there are any suspicious cells present.

How is the FNA done?

The fine needle biopsy will be performed using ultrasound. Ultrasound is able to target the area in question and, using the ultrasound image, the needle can be directed into the correct position with great accuracy.

What Is Ultrasound?

An ultrasound image is produced by the reflection of sound waves. Sound waves are sent into the body via a transducer, (probe) which is a small hand-held device placed on the relevant body part by the sonographer.

A moving black and white image appears on the ultrasound screen, (similar to a television screen) allowing the sonographer to examine different body parts.

Is Ultrasound Safe?

There are no known harmful effects associated with the medical use of sonography. Widespread clinical use of

diagnostic ultrasound for many years has not revealed any harmful effects.

Who Will Perform the Examination?

The procedure is carried out by Dr. Vlastic (a sonographer and doctor trained in performing and reading ultrasounds).

Preparation

There is no preparation required for this particular examination.

Will it be painful?

The procedure is performed using a small amount of local anaesthetic. The local anaesthetic does sting slightly and there may be some further minor discomfort as the small needle is introduced into the biopsy area. The pain is generally minimal and a large majority of patients manage the procedure without any significant discomfort.

What are the risks/complications?

Fine needle biopsy is an extremely safe procedure. The most common complication is slight bruising or tenderness of the area for a few days following the procedure. This may require minor pain relief or the application of an ice pack to the breast for short periods following your return home.

It is very important to let the doctor know if you have any clotting disorders or are on any medication to thin the blood e.g. Warfarin. Medications containing Aspirin should be avoided for a few days before and after the procedure.

Examination & Reporting time

The examination and FNA usually take between 15 to 30 minutes. The specimen

slides are then sent to the pathologist. An ultrasound report is generally issued approximately 10 minutes after the procedure. The pathology results will be available within 3-4 days and this will be forwarded directly to your referring doctor by the pathologist.

We strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your ultrasound report and pathology results with you.

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