

Needle localization with mammogram or ultrasound before breast surgery

A lump or area of breast tissue (area of concern) needs to be removed. If it is too small to feel, the surgeon will need a guide to show its location. This guide is a procedure called a pre-op needle localization. The procedure involves a mammogram or an ultrasound.

Your procedure and surgery is at:

Hamilton General Hospital

- When you arrive at the hospital go to Patient Registration on the main level to pick up your admission papers.
- You will be directed to Same Day Surgery. The nurse will ask you to change into a hospital gown and will start an intravenous (IV).
- If you need a sentinel lymph node injection, you will be taken to the Nuclear Medicine Department. From here you will go to Diagnostic Imaging, then return to Same Day Surgery before going to the operating room.

Juravinski Hospital

- When you arrive at the hospital go to Patient Registration on the main level to pick up your admission papers.
- You will be directed to Same Day Surgery. The nurse will ask you to change into a hospital gown and will start an intravenous (IV).
- You will then be taken on a stretcher to the Breast Assessment Centre (BAC) to have your needle localization done. If you are having a sentinel node injection, this will be done in the BAC before your needle localization.
- From the BAC, you will return to Same Day Surgery before going to the operating room.

What to expect during the procedure with a mammogram

During the procedure you are sitting or lying down in a chair. A radiologist inserts a needle into the lump or breast tissue. The needle stick feels like you are having an IV started, but then settles down once it is in your breast. The breast is not numbed or frozen during this procedure as the freezing can block the area of concern.

Your breast is compressed. Mammograms are used to guide the needle. An image is taken of the area of concern. Your breast stays compressed for about 10 to 15 minutes. Once the needle is in place, another picture is taken and then the compression is released.

Inside the needle is a wire with a hook on the end. A hook is used to prevent the needle from moving. Another image is taken at a different angle to make sure that the needle is in the right spot. Sometimes the needle needs to be moved again because it was not in the right spot.

Once the needle is in the right spot, a cup is taped over the needle to prevent it from getting caught on your gown or scratching yourself with the wire. The x-ray pictures go to the operating room.

What to expect during the procedure with an ultrasound

During this procedure you will lie on a stretcher. An ultrasound uses sound waves to create an image of the inside of your breast. An ultrasound technologist will start by doing an ultrasound of your breast to find the right area. Some cool gel over your breast is used to get good pictures.

The radiologist locates the area of concern. The breast is then frozen (numbed) and a needle is inserted into the area. Inside the needle is a wire with a hook on the end. A hook is used to prevent the needle from moving. Once the needle is in the right spot, it is secured and measurements are taken.

A cup is taped over the needle to prevent it from getting caught on your gown or scratching yourself with the wire. The pictures go to the operating room.