

A mammotome is a mammography guided biopsy used to diagnose a variety of breast abnormalities such as non palpable lesions that cannot be seen under ultrasound.

Why have a mammotome?

The mammotome method is a highly accurate way in which to obtain diagnosis of abnormalities.

The procedure is minimally invasive and will not require stitches but enables samples that are as reliable as open surgical biopsy.

Mammotome is generally the preferred method to open surgical biopsy as it results in less internal scarring of the breast.

The Procedure

Mammotome is done in two stages. First, the consultation with the Radiologist and then the actual procedure at a later stage.

To minimise discomfort you will be given a local anaesthetic into your breast and will be asked to lie on your side or sit on a specially designed chair.

Your breast will be placed under mammogram compression and a probe will be inserted through a small incision (only 1 cm long) into your breast.

The probe will cut and gently vacuum so that a minute amount of tissue can be taken for examination and diagnosis.

After this has been done the compression will be released and the tissue samples are sent to pathology. These results are then forwarded on to your doctor.

The pathology results will incur an out of pocket fee from the reporting pathologist.

It is possible that the Radiologist may place a very small MicroMark II Tissue Marker at the biopsy site.

This is done through the mammotome probe and no extra incisions are necessary.

This marker is made of surgical grade stainless steel and serves the purpose of identifying areas of importance for future mammograms and in the case of malignancy aids in recognition of the exact location of the abnormality for surgical removal. Once in, the breast the marker cannot be seen or felt except through x-ray.

After a sample has been taken and the marker inserted the small incision is sealed with a waterproof dressing.

Please note that the Micro Mark II Tissue marker is not covered by Medicare and will incur a fee of which you will be advised of at time of booking.

After the test

You may resume your normal activities with the exception of heavy lifting and stretching, which should be avoided for 5-7 days.

“... a highly accurate way in which to obtain diagnosis of abnormalities.”

Please Ask

We know that most patients are anxious about having tests performed. If you do have any questions or concerns, please ask our friendly staff.

We also welcome any feedback.



Appointment

Please phone or SMS our friendly booking service on **1300 788 508** or request an appointment online www.canberraimaging.com.au

What to bring

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment:

- Your referral
- Any relevant films
- Medicare card
- Pension / Health Care card

Your results

Your doctor will receive fast and convenient electronic access to your reports and images. Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your results with you.