



BreastCheck

An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Cíoch
The National Breast Screening Programme

Information
about breast
localisation
and surgery

Introduction

The x-ray of your breast (known as a mammogram) has revealed an abnormal area in your breast tissue. Because this abnormality is so small and can only be seen by specialised imaging, it is necessary to mark the area. This is called localisation.

Localisation allows the tissue to be removed during surgery under general anaesthetic. When the affected area is removed, it is examined under a microscope.

Localisation

This procedure is performed by a radiologist (person who reads x-rays) and takes about half an hour. It involves inserting a very fine wire, with the aid of an x-ray or ultrasound, into your breast. The area will first be numbed by local anaesthetic. The radiologist places the wire marker into the affected area using measurements from your x-rays. This shows the surgeon precisely where to operate.

The wire marker is then taped to your skin to prevent it from moving until the surgeon removes it during the operation.



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Freephone 1800 45 45 55

Surgery

You will receive a general anaesthetic after localisation and before your operation. The surgeon, with the aid of the wire marker, will remove the tissue.

Advice after localisation and surgery

- You should not drive for 24 hours after a general anaesthetic, so arrange for someone to bring you home.
- You will get advice about pain relief before you leave the hospital.
- You may have some discomfort and bruising.
- Wearing a supportive bra may be helpful during the first few days.
- The results of your surgery will be available within two weeks. Your doctor or nurse will arrange an appointment to give you the results at a follow-up clinic.

If you have any questions about breast localisation and surgery, please ask your surgeon or nurse.

More information

Your next appointment is:

/ /

date

time

Breast Care Nurse:

Telephone number:



BreastCheck is a Government-funded programme and part of the National Screening Service.

