Preparing for Your Breast Biopsy

These instructions are to help you prepare for your breast biopsy.

Important Medicine Information

Please review all current medicines, including prescriptions, over-the-counter, and herbal/dietary supplements with your health care team.

- Talk to your doctor if you take **Warfarin (brand name Coumadin)** to thin your blood or prevent clots. You may need to change this medicine or adjust the amount you take before the procedure to prevent bruising/bleeding after the biopsy.
- **If you have a stent, do not stop taking your medicines to prevent clots without first talking to the doctor who put in the stent.** For more information, ask a member of your health care team for the patient education handout on protecting your stent.
- You can take your daily medicines before your biopsy unless your doctor tells you not to take certain medicines.
- If you are told not to take any prescription medicines before your breast biopsy, we will contact your primary care doctor about when to stop and start these medicines. You will receive information about any medicine changes before your biopsy.
- You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol) before your biopsy.
- If your procedure is canceled for any reason, call your doctor because you may need to restart the medicine you take to thin your blood or prevent clots.
- Tell your doctor or nurse about any allergies you may, including allergies to medicines, food, latex, metal and tape.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

© January 31, 2024. The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

- If you need to take a medicine to help you relax for the procedure, you must get this medicine from your primary care doctor. **Do not take this medicine until you sign your biopsy consent form.**
- Please do not use any alcohol or drugs, including marijuana or cannabis the day of your biopsy.

Important Reminders

- You can eat and drink as normal before your breast biopsy. If you are diabetic, follow your regular routine. You do not need to fast before your biopsy.
- If you are pregnant, or think you might be, tell the radiologist or technologist before your procedure.
- **Do not** use underarm powder or deodorant on the day of your procedure.
- Bring a soft, supportive bra or an athletic sports bra.
- **Do not** wear any jewelry that would get in the way of the biopsy area.
- You should not plan to go to work on the day of your biopsy. Tell your nurse if you need a work excuse.

Transportation

You may drive yourself to and from your breast biopsy. A medicine will be used to numb the breast biopsy area. This is a local anesthetic so you will remain awake during your procedure. It may be helpful to bring a support person with you to your appointment.

If you take a medicine such as Ativan, Xanax, Valium, Klonipin (benzodiazepine) to relax before your biopsy, you will need someone to drive you home, since these medicines can make you drowsy.

If you have any questions before your biopsy, please call the biopsy nurse at 614-366-9212.