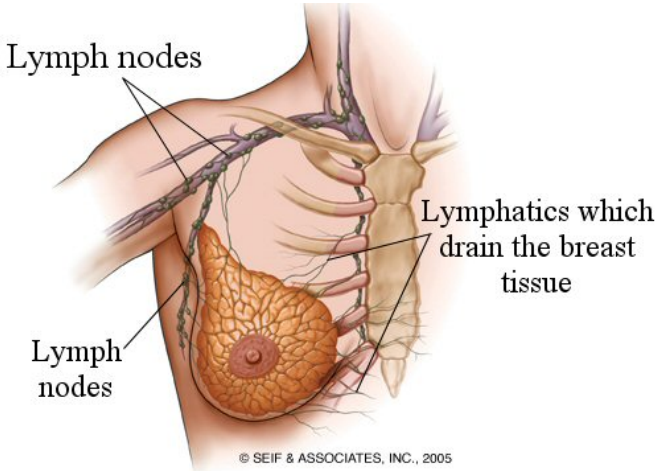
Breast Biopsy Procedure
Care After Surgery

Please read the instructions outlined below and refer to this sheet in the next few weeks. These discharge instructions provide you with general information on caring for yourself after you leave the hospital. Your caregiver may also give you specific instructions. While your treatment has been planned according to the most current medical practices available, unavoidable complications occasionally occur. If you have any problems or questions after discharge, please call your caregiver.



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- Do not take any product containing aspirin. It can cause bleeding.
- Keep the stitches dry when bathing.
- Avoid strenuous activities (stretching, reaching, jogging, lifting over 3 pounds) until your caregiver tells you it is OK.
- Resume your usual diet.
- Wear a good support bra, for as long as you are instructed.
- If you are given an ice pack, apply it as many days as directed.
- Change the dressing as advised.
- Do not drink alcohol while taking pain medicine.
- A small amount of bruising is normal after a biopsy.
- Keep all your postoperative appointments.

FINDING OUT THE RESULTS OF YOUR TEST

Not all test results are available during your visit. If your test results are not back during the visit, make an appointment with your caregiver to find out the results. Do not assume everything is normal if you have not heard from your caregiver or the medical facility. It is important for you to follow up on all of your test results.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You notice redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound.
- You notice a bad smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- The wound breaks open after the stitches (*sutures*), staples, or skin adhesive strips have been removed.
- You develop a rash.
- You have side effects or an allergic reaction to the medicine.
- You need stronger medicine.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- There is increased bleeding (more than a small spot) from the wound.
- You have difficulty breathing.
- Pus is coming from the wound.

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