

Seed needle localization with ultrasound or mammography 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 seed localization. It is done before your breast surgery.

- This procedure is done at the Juravinski Hospital up to 3 weeks before your breast surgery.
- Your breast surgeon's office will provide you with an appointment to the Breast Assessment Centre at the Juravinski Hospital.

What to expect during the ultrasound procedure

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 images/pictures.

The radiologist locates the area of concern. The breast is then frozen (numbed) and a needle is inserted into the area. The seed is inside the needle. The radiologist puts the seed in the area and then checks to make sure the seed is in the right spot. A mammogram of the breast is taken to show the location of the seed. The pictures are then sent to the surgeon.

What to expect during the mammogram procedure

During this procedure you will sit or lie on a stretcher. The area of concern will be localized with mammography while the breast is compressed and a seed is inserted into a needle. The radiologist then puts the seed into the area. We check with a mammogram to make sure the seed is in the right spot.

Care for your breast after the seed localization

You may have mild discomfort and/or bruising where the needle was inserted. You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol) as needed. Do not take any medication containing aspirin.

For the next 24 hours:

- Leave the dressing/bandage on.
- Keep the needle area dry. Sponge bath only. Do not shower directly on the area until the next day.
- For your comfort, put ice (wrapped in a towel) on the area for 10 minutes every hour, while awake.
- Take it easy. Do not do strenuous activities such as tennis, aerobics, weight lifting or skiing.

Watch for signs of infection:

- Redness, swelling, feels warm to touch, fever of 38°C (100°F) or higher.
- If you notice these signs or have concerns please call your breast surgeon, family doctor or go to the emergency department.

On the day of your surgery (up to 2 weeks after the seed localization)

- Your surgery is at the Juravinski 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, it will be done in the Nuclear Medicine Department.
- From the Nuclear Medicine Department, you will return to Same Day Surgery before going to the operating room.