

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Breast Imaging

## Breast Clip Marker Insertion

This leaflet explains a clip marker insertion, including the risks and what to expect.

We understand that you may be anxious about this procedure. This leaflet will hopefully help you prepare by providing specific information about this investigation

### What is clip marker and why do I need one?

Sometimes it is necessary to mark an area within the breast to allow this area to be located on mammograms in the future.

This is done by using a small metal clip. You will not be able to feel the clip and they do not cause side effects or problems with MRI scanners or airport/metal detectors.

The clip marker can safely remain in your breast for life if surgery is not required.

### What happens during the clip marker insertion?

The procedure will be performed by a suitably qualified Doctor or Radiographer who will be assisted by radiographers or support workers. They will explain the procedure to you and ask for your verbal consent.

Once the area has been located, your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic fluid. Local anaesthetic will be used to numb the area, this may sting for a few seconds. The area should be numb but it is normal to feel 'pushing sensations' during the procedure.

The clinician will insert the clip marker into your breast using imaging guidance for the relevant area of your breast.

### What are the risks?

**Internal bruising (haematoma)** in the breast and bleeding at the wound site can occur. These usually resolve over time without any additional treatment. **Please inform us if you are taking anticoagulant medication as bruising is more likely.**

**Infection** is very unusual but may require antibiotics. We use sterile equipment to minimise this risk and will provide you with appropriate aftercare guidance. If the skin around the wound becomes reddened and sore, please make an appointment to see your GP.

**Tissue damage** is a very small risk when ultrasound or x-ray guidance is used.

**Allergic reactions** can be caused by local anaesthetic but are very rare.

### What happens after the clip insertion?

Compression will be applied to stop any bleeding. Afterwards, paper stitches and a dressing will be applied to the area.

A mammogram will be performed by a radiographer to demonstrate the location of the clip marker. This will be looked at by the clinician before you leave the department.

The entire appointment will take approximately 30 minutes.

### What is the aftercare advice?

Sometimes discomfort and bruising is experienced following the procedure. If your breasts feel tender please take over the counter painkillers such as paracetamol. Avoid products containing aspirin.

It is recommended to avoid heavy lifting for 48 hours following the procedure. The dressing can be removed after 24 hours; you do not need to reapply another dressing.

### What follow up should I expect?

If you are having a breast marker clip inserted immediately following a biopsy then an appointment will be arranged with you to discuss the biopsy results.

If you are having a breast marker clip inserted prior to beginning chemotherapy treatment you should expect an appointment with your Oncologist to discuss your treatment.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff. You can also call the Breast Care Nurse on: 01803 655634 or 07825735161 (Monday – Friday, 09:00-16,00).

If you require a translation service or interpreter; please let us know when your appointment is booked.

If you are taking anticoagulant medication please let us know.

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.