

Needle Localizations

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

A needle localization exam of the breast is done when another breast exam shows breast lumps or abnormalities. A needle localization of the breast is a pre-surgical procedure in which a wire is inserted via a hollow needle into the breast to localize (pinpoint) either a mass or calcifications which may not be felt on physical examination.

During a needle localization exam of the breasts, imaging is used to place a needle next to an abnormal area in the breast. Then, in the operating room, the surgeon uses the wire as a guide and can remove both the abnormal area and the wire.

The radiologist will numb the area of your breast with a local anesthetic and insert a localization needle into your breast, pointing toward the spot that needs to be biopsied. The radiologist will then take more images to confirm the position of the needle and withdraw the needle leaving the wire behind. One last mammogram image will be taken to confirm the placement of the wire.

Needle localization of the breasts typically takes thirty minutes to perform before a patient goes to surgery.

Preparations

On the day of your needle localization exam, wear a loose fitting top to your appointment. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your exam. Do not wear any deodorant, lotion or powder on the day of your surgery.

Prior to your appointment, inform your radiologist about any medications you are taking and any recent or serious illnesses or medical conditions. Tell your radiologist if there is any possibility you could be pregnant. Bring all prior mammograms to your radiologist's office for review at least 72 hours before the day of your appointment.