Wire Localization Using Mammography

Wire localization is done before a surgical breast biopsy or lumpectomy. It is done to locate a site of concern that can be seen on a mammogram, but cannot be felt.

Using mammography, a radiologist places one or more fine wires into the lesion in your breast. The wire guides the surgeon to the tissue to be removed.

You will check into the Outpatient Surgery Center. There you change into a gown and robe. An IV is started. You are brought to the Breast Center in a wheelchair.

**During The Procedure**

A mammogram of your breast is done. Your breast is compressed between two paddles. You are asked to stay very still so your breast does not move.

1. The staff cleans the breast with an antiseptic solution.
2. The doctor injects a numbing medicine (Lidocaine) into your breast. You may feel a sting. Our goal is that you not feel any pain during the procedure.
3. A small needle is placed into your breast at the site of concern. You may feel pressure during the procedure. If you feel pain, please let the staff know.
4. After the needle is placed, additional mammogram images and adjustments will be made. This confirms that the needle is in the right place. When the needle placement is confirmed, a small wire is inserted into the needle and into the area of concern. The needle is removed and a wire is left behind.
5. The images taken are used by your surgeon during your surgery.

**After The Procedure**

After the procedure, you are taken back to the Outpatient Surgery Center to prepare for surgery.

The Spanish version of this *Health Facts for You* is #5988.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 10/2017 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing, HF#5904