

**Information sheet: EXCISION BIOPSY OF BREAST**

You have been recommended an excision biopsy to remove the lump or area of concern from your breast. The operation is usually performed under general anaesthesia as a day-case. If it is not possible to feel the tumour in your breast it may be necessary to insert a guide wire under local anaesthetic, or place a skin marker over the tumour, just before surgery. The surgery is performed through an incision close to the lump to provide the best cosmetic outcome. The skin is closed with internal, absorbable sutures that usually leave an excellent scar that fades with time. The tissue removed will undergo careful analysis in pathology and the results will be discussed with you at the first consultation after surgery. Depending on the final pathology result, further surgery may be required.

**Possible side effects of surgery**

**Surgery:** As with all operations there is a small risk of pain, bleeding and infection following surgery. If you are at increased risk of developing a post-operative infection you may be given antibiotics to reduce your risk.

**Excision biopsy:** The breast may be a little swollen initially but this usually settles within 2-3 months. It is common to have some numbness around the wound. The cosmetic outcome is usually very good following excision biopsy as the aim is to remove as little breast tissue as possible.