



## Tampa Bay Breast Care Specialists

John Myrrh Cox, M.D., Surgical Oncologist  
3000 Medical Park Drive, Suite 140  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 978-8315 Fax: (813) 600-6962

4211 Van Dyke Road, Suite 207  
Lutz, FL 33558  
<http://www.tampabreastcare.com>

---

### Needle Localization

A needle localization is an outpatient procedure done in conjunction with and prior to an excisional breast biopsy or lumpectomy. The surgeon/radiologist will use an x-ray/mammogram or ultrasound machine to insert a thin, thread-like wire as close to the questionable mass or calcifications as possible. This wire is then kept in place so the surgeon knows the exact location of the mass that needs to be biopsied or removed. Here is some general information on how to prepare for your procedure and what to expect.

#### *Preparing for surgery day:*

- Make sure you have someone that can drive you home after surgery.
- Refrain from eating or drinking anything after midnight before your surgery, unless otherwise specified by your doctor.
- We suggest wearing clothing that is loose and comfortable, as well as a sports bra or front closure bra.

#### *What occurs in a needle localization procedure:*

- Your surgeon or radiologist will use an ultrasound or x-ray machine to locate the mass that will be biopsied or removed.
- Your breast is cleansed with an antiseptic solution.
- Local anesthetic is injected into the skin to numb the area where the needle will go through to place the wire.
- The wire is threaded through a thin needle which is then inserted into the breast. You may feel pressure as the wire is guided towards the mass in question. This should not be painful, so let the surgeon/radiologist know if you are feeling any discomfort.
- Once the surgeon/radiologist has fastened the wire to the appropriate spot, another x-ray (mammogram) may be done to confirm it is in the correct position.
- The wire is then hooked in place and the thin needle removed. The wire is taped down to stay in place while you are prepared for your excisional biopsy or lumpectomy. Be conscious of how you move to avoid changing the location of the wire.

#### *What to expect after the needle localization procedure:*

- Your biopsy or lumpectomy usually takes place in a different room. You will be given either local or general anesthesia.
  - Your surgeon removes the wire and the questionable tissue and sends it off to be screened for malignancy. An x-ray is taken to confirm that the mass in question has been successfully removed.
  - A pathologist then examines the breast tissue. It generally takes three to five business days to receive the results of the tested tissue. Your results will be reviewed at your post-op visit. You will need to call our office to make this post-op evaluation visit.
- 

### Authorization of Procedures and Billing

When we schedule your surgery, we will call your insurance company to verify coverage and get authorization. If we have any issue obtaining authorization, we will call you immediately. If you decide to pay out of pocket or if your insurance does not cover, our billing department will give you an estimation of how much your

procedure will cost, as well as make payment arrangements. We are only responsible for the billing of the surgery our surgeon performs, so keep in mind that depending on the complexity of your situation, you may receive bills from the surgical facility where the surgery takes place, the radiologist, and the pathologist, just to name a few.

You should contact our office if you experience any of the following:

- You have a fever over 101.5 during the first week after surgery.
- Your wound feels tight and you are experiencing extreme pain.
- Your breast is extremely bruised other than around the surgical site.
- You are experiencing excessive nausea and/or vomiting.
- Blood continues to leak from your dressing. While you are trying to contact us, use a towel to hold firm pressure on your wound.

If your situation becomes a life-threatening or emergency situation, please call 911 or go straight to the Emergency Room. Please notify us so we may assist you and care for your needs.