

The Breast Unit

Information about the breast unit clinics

You have been referred to the breast unit clinic because you are experiencing problems with your breast/breasts that should be investigated.

This leaflet explains some of the examinations and investigations you may have when you attend the breast unit clinic. These will be discussed with you at your appointment.

The unit has a number of health care staff that are here to help and support you, Information and contact details of staff can be found at the end of the leaflet.

Patients are welcome to bring a family member or friend to this appointment for support.

You will be examined by either a member of the medical staff, a nurse consultant or a nurse practitioner, all of whom are highly trained in breast examination.

Following your examination by a member of the medical staff, a nurse consultant or a nurse practitioner, you may be asked to undergo one or more of the following investigations.

If additional investigations are recommended, they can usually be done at your first visit.

Examinations and investigations

Mammograms

These are x-rays of the breast which would be performed by a radiographer.

Ultrasound

This is a completely painless examination and uses sound waves not x-rays. It is the method used for scanning pregnant women. A doctor called a radiologist or a radiographer would perform this test which gives him/her additional information from that seen on a mammogram.

Needle biopsy

Sometimes this test is required which involves the placing of a needle in the breast or axilla (under the armpit), under local anaesthetic, a solution is injected with a small needle to numb the area of the breast or axilla. A small amount of tissue is removed and then sent to the laboratory for examination under a microscope. The biopsy would be performed with your consent, by the doctor or radiologists who will have fully explained the procedure to you. This test can usually be performed at your first visit.

If you have any questions or would like any further information on these investigations, please contact the breast care nurses on the numbers at the bottom of this leaflet.

Results

If a needle biopsy is performed you will be asked to return for the results in approximately one week. Should any treatment be considered necessary, this will be discussed with you at that time.

Research

The breast unit is part of the Cambridge University Hospital and as such carries out many ongoing research projects. You may be asked to take part in one of these projects. If you agree we would be very grateful. However, you are not obliged to take part in anything you do not wish to and refusal will not effect the care you receive in our unit.

A female member of the clinical staff will always be present during your investigations

Breast Unit staff

Clinic receptionist

You will be welcomed by the office staff/clinic receptionist, who will provide you with assistance as required.

Radiographers

Our small team of female radiographers are specially trained and work solely in the field of breast imaging.

Doctors

We have both male and female doctors who are dedicated to breast work.

Nurse consultant/nurse practitioners

Our nurse consultants and nurse practitioners have been trained in clinical examination.

Breast care nurses

We have a team of breast care nurses involved in all aspects of breast care work. One of them is usually present during these clinics and is available to give information and support as required.

Being part of a teaching hospital, medical students or trainee nurses may sometimes be present during your clinic appointment. If so, they will be made known to you. If you would prefer that medical students or trainee nurses are not present during your appointment, please let a member of clinic staff know. This will not in any way affect the care that you receive.

Breast care nurses contact telephone numbers

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact the breast care nurses on the numbers below:

Hilary Harte	01223 586756
Alison Hallett	01223 348272
Sharon Iddles	01223 216313
Pat Skelly	01223 596291
Vanessa Shackleton	01223 586573



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

Document history

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