

Procedure Name: Breast Lumpectomy and Pre-Needle Localization, or Sentinel Biopsy

Brief Description of Procedure:

Breast Lumpectomy – Usually a previous biopsy or needle aspiration has been performed and it has been determined there is a malignant (cancer) tumor present. A small incision is made to remove the tumor and some surrounding normal breast tissue (margins). This is considered a breast-conserving procedure. Often due to the denseness or thickness of the breast, a special procedure to locate the tumor is done in mammography just prior to surgery under local anesthesia called Pre-Op Needle Localization. This involves placing a small needle wire inside breast to localize the tumor for the surgery.

Sentinel Node Biopsy – If having Sentinel Node Biopsy also, you will have a separate small incision under the armpit. If lymph nodes are to be removed under the armpit, a special procedure in Nuclear Medicine is done just prior to surgery. Often a blue dye or small amount of radioactive material will be injected into the breast. The dye/tracer moves to the lymph nodes and helps identify which lymph nodes need to be removed for testing. All tissue removed from the breast is sent to pathology (lab) where tests are done to identify the type of tumor, and whether the cancer has spread to the lymph nodes. This assist in staging of the cancer. The pathologist will also check to make sure the margins are clear.

Describe anesthesia type that is typically given:

Usually done under general anesthesia.

What patients that smoke can expect when having surgery:

After surgery your anesthesia specialist will check your breathing and lung sounds to determine if a breathing treatment is needed. Smoking increases airway irritation, which leads to wheezing and coughing. Further breathing treatments and medication are sometimes needed.

Average length of surgery time:

1-2 hours



Good Samaritan
Surgery Services

Average length of surgery time:

1-2 hours

Average length in immediate recovery time:

30 minutes

Average length for time of discharge:

1-2 hours

When can you go back to work:

To be determined by surgeon

What will my weight-bearing limit be after surgery:

To be determined by surgeon.

What kind of post discomfort can you expect:

You can expect some discomfort following the surgery, which should be relieved by pain medication, which will be prescribed by your doctor. You may have a drain in place that will need to be emptied periodically. You will be shown how to do this before you are discharged. It is important to wear a supportive bra to help with discomfort.

For optimal quality care and surgical safety, the following will be confirmed between patient, surgeon, and surgery team prior to anesthesia:

- Identity of the patient
- Surgical Site
- Procedure
- Sign Consent
- Surgeon to mark the surgical site, if applicable
- Allergies