

# Information for Patients and Carers

## Stereotactic Guided Magseed Breast Insertion

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

## What is a Breast Magseed Insertion?

A Magseed is a tiny marker, just 5mm long, that is placed into the breast tissue to help guide surgeons during a breast lumpectomy for impalpable (a lump that cannot be felt) breast cancer. A small needle is used to insert the Magseed into the area. The Magseed will remain in the breast tissue to guide the surgeon in theatre, at which time it will be removed.

### Important Information

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding
- If you have problems sitting upright in a chair or require a hoist to transfer
- If you are taking tablets to thin the blood (anticoagulants)
- If you are allergic to injections of local anaesthetic (which are commonly used at the dentist)

## Preparation for the scan

Do not apply deodorant or antiperspirant before your appointment as it may show on the mammograms.

You may be in the X-Ray room for up to 1 hour during the examination. You will be asked to undress to the waist.

It would be helpful if you could wear a skirt or trousers instead of a dress.

## Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

A relative or friend can accompany you to the hospital, but they will not usually be allowed into the room when you have your examination. Please note that as we have limited seating and do not have childcare facilities, you are advised not to bring small children with you to your appointment.

## What happens when you arrive?

When you arrive, please report to the reception desk in the Central Lancashire Breast Unit.

You will be shown to a cubicle and asked to undress from the waist up and put on a gown which will be provided. You will then be taken into an X-ray room where the mammographer will check some details.

A doctor who specialises in X-ray procedures (the Radiologist) will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions you may have.

The Magseed Insertion will be carried out using the X-ray machine for guidance.

## Your procedure

The Magseed insertion is performed with you sitting in a chair. The mammographer will position your breast on the x-ray machine. Your breast will be compressed in exactly the same way as for a mammogram, but for a longer period of time while the needle is put into the breast. A computer is linked to the machine to work out where the needle should be placed.

A local anaesthetic will be injected before insertion of the needle used for the Magseed. You will feel some stinging as the local anaesthetic is injected, but the area soon goes numb. A small nick may be made in the skin to assist in placing the biopsy needle.

The needle will be inserted through the skin and the Magseed will be inserted through the needle. During the procedure, X-rays will be taken to guide the positioning of the Magseed.

Before you leave the department, Mammograms will be taken in 2 different positions to confirm the exact location of the Magseed in preparation for your surgery.

## Side effects

A breast Magseed insertion is a safe and common procedure. As with any procedure there is always the risk that a complication may develop. Occasionally there may be some bleeding inside the breast and a bruise or swelling (Haematoma) will form. This can be uncomfortable for a day or two. Any bruising should fade within 7-10 days. Occasionally, there may be an allergic reaction to local anaesthetic, in which case you may be given medication to counteract this.

## Are there any risks?

We use the smallest radiation dose possible, in line with national regulations to provide as much information as we can about your condition.

The results of your procedure will give your doctor useful information about your condition and will help to plan your treatment.

## After the procedure

Firm pressure will be applied to the area of the breast for 15-20 minutes to stop any bleeding and reduce bruising. A dressing will be applied over the area. We advise that you leave this in place for 5 days.

If the site should bleed after the procedure, cover with a clean dressing and apply firm pressure until the bleeding stops.

If the wound becomes red and sore in the days following the procedure, it might have become infected. If so, please consult your GP.

You may develop a small scar.

You are likely to experience some bruising over the area where the needle has been placed. This is normal and will disappear in time. If you experience any discomfort, normal pain relievers such as paracetamol may be taken. Do not take aspirin as this may increase bruising.

## Your surgery

Your breast surgeon will contact you with the date for your breast surgery.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact X-Ray Appointments:

Chorley: **01257 245861**  
Breast Care Nurses: **01257 245690**  
(Monday to Friday 08:30 – 4:30pm)

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware)

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/breast-screening-radiation-risk-with-digital-mammography>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-radiation-uses-dose-measurements-and-safety-advice>

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[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.  
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or to join our reading group please contact us on email address:

[patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk)

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**Division:** Diagnostics and Clinical Support

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