tissue is often too dense for a clear mammogram image. This is a completely painless test and lasts less than 30 minutes. The Radiologist will apply some gel to your breast and move a sensor over your breast to capture images.

Cyst Aspiration
Cyst aspiration is a quick and simple procedure to remove cyst fluid with ultrasound guidance. While the Radiologist is performing the ultrasound on your breast, if a cyst is seen, they will be able to remove the cyst. This is done by inserting a thin needle into your breast to drain the cyst(s). The fluid from the cyst drains out into a syringe and the cyst collapses. A plaster may be applied to the area of your breast when the needle has been removed. This procedure is usually painless for most women.

Needle-Core Biopsy
If a solid lump is seen by the Radiologist while performing your ultrasound, a core biopsy may be taken. This is where the Radiologist uses a needle to take a small piece of tissue from the lump or abnormal area. Local anaesthetic is injected into the area first to numb it. You may feel a little soreness or a sensation of pressure for a short time. Several biopsies are usually taken at the same time. The Radiologist may apply some steri-strips and a small dressing following this procedure.

The tissue sample is then sent to the laboratory to be looked at by a Doctor who is expert in looking at cells and tissues (a Pathologist). This may take a number of days to process. You will then be taken back to the Breast Care Centre where follow-up arrangements will be made. Patients returning for immediate follow up will have their cases discussed at a multidisciplinary team meeting in accordance with the Health Information Quality Assurance Guidelines. The Doctor and Breast Care Nurse will discuss the next steps with you and answer any questions you may have. If you have a needle biopsy you will be asked to return to the Breast Care Centre a week later for your results.

Please inform us if you are taking any medication, especially anticoagulants (blood thinners) such as aspirin or warfarin.

Remember: 90% of women have completely negative results. Should you have any further enquiries regarding your appointment please phone us on: 01-293 6643
Welcome to the Beacon Breast Care Centre

Our aim at the Breast Care Centre is to provide all patients with swift access to our triple assessment clinic. This assessment involves clinical history and breast examination and, where appropriate, mammogram and/or ultrasound and/or biopsy. We have a specialist multidisciplinary team of Consultant Surgeons, Consultant Radiologists, Consultant Medical Oncologists, Consultant Radiation Oncologists, Consultant Pathologists, Radiographers and Breast Care Specialist Nurses.

At Beacon Hospital we have the most up-to-date Radiology Systems featuring Digital Radiology Suites with advanced Mammography and Ultrasound.

Things you need to know

• Before you arrive
• While you are at the Breast Clinic

Before you arrive
You have been referred to the Beacon Breast Care Centre by your GP. This leaflet will give you some helpful information about what to expect. Please read this leaflet carefully before you arrive. We suggest if you are bringing someone with you they should read it too.

We do not know before you come in which tests you may need. In some cases you may have to stay through the whole afternoon. If you bring someone with you for company, they can help you think of questions to ask and remember the answers you get.

While you are at the Breast Clinic
When you arrive at Beacon Hospital, go directly to the Breast Care Centre which is located in the outpatients department opposite the hospital reception desk on the ground floor.

After registration, you will be asked to take a seat and wait to be called by the Breast Care Specialist Nurse.

The Breast Care Specialist Nurse will introduce herself to you and answer any questions you may have then or at any stage during your visit.

The Breast Care Nurse Specialist will then introduce you to the Consultant Breast Surgeon who will ask you some medical questions and examine your breasts.

By examining your breasts the Doctor will be able to determine if you need more tests, and if so, what tests you need. These tests will be carried out on the same day.

There are four different tests you may have:
1. Mammogram
2. Ultrasound
3. Cyst Aspiration
4. Needle-Core Biopsy

What are these tests?
Each of these tests checks your breasts in a different way enabling us to get all the information we need.

Mammogram
A mammogram is where a series of specialised x-rays of the breasts are taken to detect abnormal growths or changes in the breast tissue.

The mammogram is taken by a Radiographer. You will have complete privacy during this procedure.

When you arrive in the radiology department you will be escorted to the changing area and asked to undress to your waist; you will be provided with a gown.

You will then meet the Radiographer who will perform your mammogram. The Radiographer will firstly ask you to remove your gown, they will then place your breast on the mammogram machine and press on it with a plastic paddle. This is usually not painful but may be uncomfortable. Each x-ray will last a few seconds.

The Radiographer will take at least two pictures of each breast.

- Please avoid using deodorant, talcum powder and body cream on the day of your mammogram
- It is important to inform us if you have breast implants
- If you have had a previous mammogram, please bring your films with you.

A Radiologist will assess the results of your mammogram. If they see something unusual, the next step may be to perform an ultrasound of that particular area.

Ultrasound
An ultrasound uses high pitch sound waves to create a picture of your breast on a screen. It produces pictures of the internal structure of the breast.

It helps us to see whether a breast lump is a cyst (filled with fluid) or solid.

Ultrasounds are also useful for women under 35 whose breast...