

Excision of Breast Tissue

What is an excision?

- An excision is the surgical removal of an area of breast tissue.
- After surgery, the removed tissue (“the specimen”) is sent to pathology to be looked at under the microscope by a pathologist.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will an excision change the shape or size of my breast?

A: Maybe. The answer depends on how much tissue your surgeon needs to remove, where the target area is, and the original size and shape of your breast.

Q: Will I have a scar?

A: Most women have a small, subtle scar at the site of lumpectomy. If you tend to develop dark scars, you are more likely to have a visible scar.

Q: How long does the procedure take?

A: An excision alone is usually under an hour. You can plan to be at the hospital for at least half the day.

Q: What kind of anesthesia is used?

A: General anesthesia may be used, but you may have the option to have a lighter form of sedation. You will have the opportunity to discuss anesthesia with a pre-op nurse, and then again on the day of surgery with your anesthesiologist.

Q: When will I know the results from my excision?

A: The final pathology results from your surgery will take 1-2 weeks.