

# 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.