

Radio- Frequency, Hologic LOCalizer™ Tag

Information and advice for patients

Breast Imaging service

What is the Tag for?

If you have a lesion or area within the breast which your surgeon is unable to feel, they may recommend a LOCalizer™ Tag insertion prior to surgery. The LOCalizer™ system marks the lesion/area with a miniature radiofrequency Tag so that the surgeon can locate the lesion/area they need to remove on the day of your surgery.

The Tag is designed to be inserted into the breast and can be inserted at any point, before the surgery takes place. When it is time for your surgery, the tag will be removed as part of the procedure.

Each Tag has a unique identification number and is inserted with a needle, guided with an ultrasound or x-ray machine. The procedure will be similar to a biopsy or clip insertion if you have had these performed already.

What happens during the Tag insertion?

When you arrive in the breast unit, you will meet the consultant who will perform the procedure. They will explain the procedure and any risks and give you the chance to ask any questions.

The procedure will either take place in one of the ultrasound or mammography rooms. It usually takes 30 minutes. Local anaesthetic is injected into your breast to numb the area first. This may sting a little for the first few seconds. A tiny cut will be made on your breast skin and the Tag needle will pass through it. The needle position is checked using ultrasound or X-rays and the Tag will be inserted into the breast abnormality.

Your Consultant will use the LOCalizer™ reader to confirm the position. You will also have a mammogram to confirm that the tag position is accurate.

A dressing and paper stitch will be placed on your breast - this must be kept on for a 24 hours. You can then return home and resume normal activity.

What are the risks?

The risks are similar to having a biopsy or a clip insertion and include: Pain, infection, bleeding, bruising, a small scar and the possibility that the Tag is not accurately placed.

If the Tag is not accurately placed or cannot be inserted, the Consultant will explain this. They will also have a discussion with your Surgeon and decide the best plan for you. This may mean having a wire inserted on the day of surgery.

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What happens on the day of surgery?

You will be admitted on to the surgical ward. Once you are asleep in theatre, your surgeon will check the position of the Tag with the LOCalizer™ reader. The reader will display the distance from the Tag throughout the surgery. By measuring the distance to the target lesion, the LOCalizer™ system allows us to accurately locate the breast abnormality.

Once the lesion has been removed, your surgeon will use LOCalizer™ system reader to confirm that the Tag has been taken out of the breast.

Contact details

Breast Care Nurses 0121 507 4976

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

Sources of information

Lowes, S., Bell, A., et al., (2020). Use of Hologic LOCalizer radiofrequency identification (RFID) tags to localise impalpable breast lesions and axillary nodes: experience of the first 150 cases in a UK breast unit. *Clinical Radiology*, 75(12), 942-949.

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