

# Breast Localization

Your surgeon has recommended that you have a breast surgery with breast localization. The following information will help answer questions you may have about the needle localization.

## What Is Breast Localization?

Breast localization is a procedure which helps pinpoint an abnormality within the breast for the surgeon. This abnormality usually is not felt by the surgeon, but can be identified on the mammogram or ultrasound.

## Who Performs Breast Localization?

Breast localization is performed by a radiologist in the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Center. The radiologist is specially trained in performing breast procedures.

## What Happens During Breast Localization?

The radiologist reviews your prior mammogram (or ultrasound) to determine the best method for localizing the area in question. If the localization is for calcifications, you will be sitting in a chair. A preliminary mammogram is done to localize the area, and then the skin is cleaned and numbed using a local anesthetic. A thin needle containing a wire is then inserted. Films are taken to confirm the appropriate needle position. Usually the needle is removed, leaving the wire in the area of abnormality.

If a mass is localized using ultrasound, the procedure begins with you lying on a table. The needle is inserted under ultrasound guidance.

Mammograms are then taken to assure that the wire is correctly placed. The wire is covered and left in place. You are then escorted to the operating room where the surgeon performs the surgery at which time, the wires are removed.

## How Long Does The Procedure Take?

The entire breast localization takes approximately 30-45 minutes.

## Who Can I Contact For Questions?

For scheduling or billing questions contact 661.200.1099. Our staff is here to help answer any questions or concerns you have. Our breast health nurse navigators are available to answer questions and provide support before, during, and after your procedure.