



Breast coil marker insertion

This leaflet explains what a breast coil marker is and why it is used. If you have any questions about the marker or the procedure to insert it, please speak to your breast screening specialist nurse.

Why is the coil marker needed?

The coil marker is used to aid visibility on both x-rays and ultrasound for small areas of breast tissue or calcification.

The coil will be seen on a mammogram and may often be seen on ultrasound.

How is the coil marker inserted?

The coil marker is often inserted at the time of biopsy with local anaesthetic, to ensure that the area can be accurately identified again.

Is having a coil marker inserted safe?

The coil is a few millimetre in size (the size of a sesame seed) and made from either titanium or stainless steel. It is safe for you to have MRI scans or passing through airport security (no bleeping).

The coil can safely be left within the breast with no side-effects. It is extremely uncommon to feel the breast marker once it is placed.

More information

If there are any problems or queries please contact Carolyn Denham or Amy Chambers, Breast Screening Clinical Nurse Specialists on 0118 322 8563. Out of normal working hours, please contact your GP.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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