

If you need any of these tests, you will be accompanied at all times by one of our nursing team. On completion of your investigations, your Consultant will discuss these results with you and any further steps that may be needed.

A **specialist breast care nurse** is available during the clinics to help explain the procedures and to provide any additional information you would find useful. Your visit will take approximately 1-2 hours and you may eat and drink normally before your appointment.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.



London Bridge Hospital

SPECIALIST BREAST CLINIC

INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

How to find us:

London Bridge Hospital is situated on the South Bank of the Thames. We are next to London Bridge mainline and underground stations with easy access to the city. Please note: no right hand turn from Borough High street into Duke Street Hill.

31 Old Broad Street is situated on Old Broad Street in the heart of the city and next to Tower 42 (formerly the Natwest Tower).

London Bridge Hospital

27-29 Tooley Street, London SE1 2PR

Telephone 020 7407 3100

Fax 020 7407 3162

E-mail info@lbh.hcahealthcare.co.uk

Website www.londonbridgehospital.com

GP LIAISON

A service for GPs and patients who require assistance with referrals to consultants and Hospital services.

Opening hours: Monday-Friday

08.30-17.30hrs

Telephone: 020 7234 2009

Fax: 020 7234 2019

Our specialist Breast Clinic draws on the expertise of the country's leading breast units at both Guy's and St Thomas' and King's College, London.

Our team of dynamic Surgeons, Oncologists, Radiologists and Cytologists at the clinic are responsible for many of the latest advances in breast disease and cancer research today. What's more, our consultants work solely in the field of breast problems. This dedicated team of professionals delivers a personal and highly specialised service.



EASE OF ACCESS

The Clinic provides rapid access, advice, diagnosis and treatment for anyone who may have a breast problem. Appointments are available 4 days a week and you can choose from our London Bridge Hospital site or 31 Old Broad Street, our Diagnostic and Treatment Centre in the City.

YOUR CONSULTATION

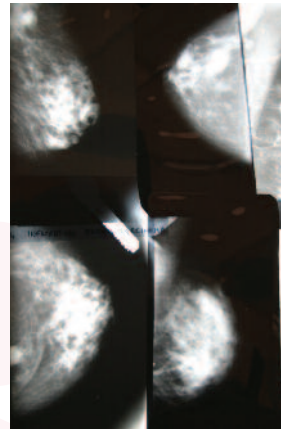
Your consultant will assess your current symptoms and is able to identify any potential problems through a series of

diagnostic procedures. These diagnostic tests can be performed at the same time to avoid the inconvenience of a second appointment and minimise any possible worries.

Undergoing a diagnostic breast procedure can, naturally, cause some anxiety. Most women find it helpful to understand something about the procedure so they know what to expect. The following information provides a brief summary of the different procedures we provide:

Mammography

In this procedure two images are taken of each breast by compressing the breast between two plates. This may cause some temporary discomfort. The consultant radiologist will then check the images and may recommend some additional views to ensure the optimal assessment is achieved.



Assortment of Mammograms

Ultrasound scanning

This is an imaging technique using sound waves. The consultant radiologist applies gel to the breast and then moves a probe over the breast to examine the breast tissue. The consultant may then decide to take a sample of tissue using the

ultrasound to locate the exact area. Samples can be taken by fine needle aspiration or a core biopsy.

Fine needle aspiration

Using a fine needle and a syringe, cells are collected from the breast tissue. The procedure can be uncomfortable and may need to be repeated to ensure enough cells are taken from the area. The procedure lasts approximately 15 minutes. This specimen is looked at immediately by the Consultant Cytologist on site and the results are usually available within the hour.

Core biopsy

This procedure takes a tiny piece of tissue from the breast, under local anaesthetic. This will be looked at under the microscope by the Cytologist. The biopsy needle makes a clicking noise which the consultant radiologist will demonstrate before beginning the procedure. More than one sample may be required to ensure an adequate amount of tissue is taken. The procedure takes approximately 30 minutes and the results are available after processing, which takes 48 hours. Core biopsies can also be carried out under mammography guidance. Whilst in a seated position, the breast is locally anaesthetised and compressed for approximately 20 minutes whilst the samples are taken.