Will I feel pain after the biopsy?
• You will feel little or no pain.
• Mild bruising is common, as well as tingling or discomfort as the freezing wears off.
• To relieve any discomfort, an ice pack and acetaminophen (Tylenol) are recommended.
• There will be little to no scarring to your breast.

What are possible complications following a stereotactic biopsy?
• Complications are rare, but may include bleeding, bruising or infection.
• Less than 1 in 100 patients have excessive bleeding or bruising, and less than 1 in 1000 have an infection.

Call your doctor if you have any signs of the following:
• Persistent or heavy bleeding, swelling or enlargement of the breast
• Pain uncontrolled by over-the-counter pain medication
• Signs of infection such as redness, swelling or discharge from the needle biopsy site

POST-BIOPSY CARE INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Apply cold ice pack for 15 minutes every 2 hours for the first 24 hours as needed.
2. A sports bra can be worn for extra support, including at bedtime.
3. Keep bandage dry for 24 hours. Do not shower for 24 hours after the biopsy.
4. Warm, dry compresses can be used after 24 hours. Do not use moist compresses.
5. Leave bandage covering and steri–strips on until they come off on their own
6. For pain relief you may take acetaminophen (Tylenol).
7. No heavy lifting or strenuous exercise for the next 24 hours.
8. It is normal to have bruising, a lump, discomfort and possibly tingling that may last for several days to several weeks.
9. If you develop bleeding that will not stop, pain, fever or redness around the biopsy site, call your family doctor or report to the nearest Emergency Department.

References:
What are calcifications in my breast?
- Calcifications or micro–calcifications are tiny calcium deposits in the breast that are seen on a mammogram.
- Certain patterns or clusters of calcifications can sometimes be a sign of cancer however, about 80% of calcifications have nothing to do with cancer.
- Calcifications are not related to the amount of calcium you take in your diet.

Why do I need a stereotactic biopsy?
- When calcifications are seen on your mammogram, the radiologist (a specialist medical doctor) wants to make sure they are not a risk to you.
- Often patients with calcifications are sent for special mammogram views.
- If further views do not confirm that the calcifications are benign (not harmful), a stereotactic guided core breast biopsy may be ordered.
- A stereotactic biopsy uses a mammogram machine to find and sample the calcifications.
- In the past, patients with calcifications needed surgery for biopsy.
- A stereotactic biopsy is a nonsurgical method of assessing calcifications.

Do I need to follow any special Instructions to be ready for a stereotactic biopsy?
- You can eat or drink before the biopsy.
- Do not wear deodorant or powder on the day of the biopsy.
- If you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible at: 705-740-8166.
- The procedure will be done in the Breast Assessment Centre (Level 3) at PRHC.

Who will perform the procedure?
The procedure is performed by a radiologist with the assistance of specially trained x-ray technologists.

What happens to me during a stereotactic biopsy?
- You will be positioned in a special chair (either sitting or lying) with your breast compressed similar to a mammogram, but with less pressure.
- The breast will be compressed in this position during the biopsy, so it is important to get as comfortable as possible before the biopsy starts.
- Pictures will be taken to find the calcifications.
- The radiologist will numb the skin with local anesthetic (freezing) and will then take samples of breast tissue with a biopsy device.
- You should not feel pain, but some mild pressure.
- The samples will be x-rayed to make sure they contain the calcifications.
- You will be released from compression and a x-ray technologist will help apply firm pressure to the biopsy site to stop any bleeding.
- A final mammogram will be taken to make sure everything looks ok before going home.
- Most women will be fine to drive themselves, but it is suggested to bring a family member or friend to have as support.
- The entire procedure will take approximately one hour.

When will I find out my results?
The lab analysis takes 3–5 working days. Your family doctor will notify you of the results as soon as they are available.