

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

The Magseed® marker

What is the Magseed® marker?

A Magseed® marker is a magnetic, unbreakable seed used by hospitals in the surgical treatment of breast cancer.

It's extremely small – smaller than a single grain of rice. For that reason, it cannot be felt when placed in your breast before surgery and is completely painless.

Why is it being used in my breast cancer surgery?

If you have been diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer or have a suspicious looking lump that your doctor would like removed, you may have been offered a breast-conserving surgery (also known as a lumpectomy). These are treatment options that can save your breast from being removed completely (a full mastectomy). The Magseed® marker is used to aid surgeons in these procedures.

How is the Magseed® inserted?

After you have had a local anaesthetic, the Magseed® is injected by the radiologist or advanced practitioner before surgery under ultrasound or mammographic guidance. This will take between 15 and 30 minutes and afterwards you will have a mammogram to ensure the Magseed® is in the correct position. The procedure can be done at any time before your operation.

Because the seed is magnetic, your surgeon can use a Sentimag® probe. This is a highly sensitive magnetic detector that helps the surgeon to the exact location of the cancer. Think of it like a GPS, directing your surgeon to exactly where they need to get to.

What are the risks?

The procedure and risks are like a breast biopsy. The risks include pain, discomfort, bleeding, infection and inflammation. There is a risk the Magseed®, once inserted, doesn't correspond to the abnormal tissue. An additional localisation technique may be used to identify the abnormal tissue.

You will need to complete a consent form before this procedure and answer some questions to make sure it is safe for you to have the Magseed® inserted.

Please inform your breast care nurse if you have a pacemaker or cardioverter before attending for your Magseed® insertion.

If you have any problems following your Magseed® insertion, please telephone 01623 622515, extension 3884 (during normal working hours) for advice.

Outside of normal office hours, please ring your GP or NHS 111. You will need to explain that you have had a recent breast procedure.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

<p>To be completed by the Communications office Leaflet code: PIL202512-01-TMM Created: December 2025 / Review Date: December 2027</p>
--