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Telephone: 919-782-8200 Fax: 919-781-0440

**Breast Patient Information Sheet, Informed Consent,  
and Release of Liability Form**

- As a breast patient, you will undergo a physical examination. In performing a physical examination, it is often very difficult to determine if a lump is suspicious for breast cancer. Normal breast tissue by its nature can be lumpy. It is important for you to understand that while the physical exam is a very valuable diagnostic tool, it is not itself foolproof.
- As a breast patient, you may have a mammogram. Mammography is an x-ray examination of breast tissue, which is performed in two views. It is very important for you to understand that a mammogram is a very valuable examination tool. Statistics show that mammography may pick up a breast lesion prior to you or your doctor being able to see it. However, these same statistics show that not all breast lesions will show up on a mammogram. This is particularly true in a young patient who has very dense breast tissue, which may obscure a nodule or other abnormality on mammogram.
- Ultrasound exam of the breast tissue is a second diagnostic tool that can be used to pick up lesions within the breast. Many of you may have had an ultrasound exam for a gynecologic procedure or during a pregnancy. Sound waves are used to scan the breast tissue. This technique is excellent at defining the difference between a cyst and a solid mass. It can also be used to define the nature of a solid mass and can be used as an adjunct to needle or core biopsy.
- In addition to the mammogram, ultrasound and physical exam by a physician, breast self-examination is an extremely important part of your complete care. When you are conducting a breast self-examination, if you notice a change in your breast tissue, it is important that you report this change to your physician as soon as possible. If you notice an increase in size of an area, have skin changes over an area or for any reason are concerned, you should bring this information to your physician's attention as soon as possible. Most breast lesions which can be felt are first discovered by the patient.
- In the event that a lump is found in the breast or an abnormality seen on ultrasound exam, you and the physician may decide to undergo a needle biopsy of the affected area. A fine-needle biopsy involves placing a small amount of local anesthetic in the skin and passing a small needle back and forth through the lump to sample cells within that lump to be examined by a pathologist. This technique can be very reliable, but like all of the above-mentioned techniques, it is not foolproof.

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- A second technique would be a core biopsy. This procedure is similar to a fine-needle biopsy except that a small incision is created in the skin and a larger needle is used to sample pieces of a mass or abnormality either using physical exam, ultrasound, or mammogram guidance. This technique can provide greater accuracy in that larger pieces of tissue are removed. In addition, a pathologist examines this tissue.
- Surgical procedures of the breast including excisional biopsy, incisional biopsy, needle-localized biopsy, segmental mastectomy or total mastectomy are performed at the hospital and are described separately in the office informational pamphlet which you will be provided with during your visit.

Therefore, above all, you the patient are a very important part of your self-care. It is important that you continue to do your own breast self-examination on a regular basis and report to your physician accordingly.

I have completely read and understand this form. I hereby authorize and direct the Physicians of Tolnitch Surgical Associates, P.A. to utilize the above procedures to examine my breast tissue, to perform and physical examination and if I decide to proceed with either a fine-needle biopsy or a core biopsy of my breast tissue after discussion with my physician.

Having received an explanation of the procedures to be performed, and having given my informed consent and authorization to perform such procedures if indicated, and with full recognition of the reliability of the procedures which may be performed and the foreseeable risks associated with the same, I hereby the Physicians of Tolnitch Surgical Associates, P.A., their employees, medical staff, agents and consultants from any liability with regard to any of the procedures performed pursuant to this informed consent and release of liability form.

Patient's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_