



## **Breast Abscess**

### **What is a breast abscess?**

An abscess is a collection of infected fluid.

### **How is an abscess diagnosed?**

We use breast ultrasound to check for an abscess. We have scheduled an ultrasound in Mammography, on the first floor of NC Cancer Hospital.

### **What will happen after my ultrasound?**

If you have an abscess, you will see a breast surgery specialist today. They see patients in the Surgical Oncology Clinic on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the NC Cancer Hospital. The breast specialist may recommend doing an operation or draining the abscess with a thin needle.

If the ultrasound does not show an abscess, come back to OB clinic with your radiology report to meet with your OB provider.

### **Can I breastfeed with an abscess?**

It is safe for your baby to breastfeed while you have a breast infection. The bacteria that cause mastitis are usually from your baby's nose and mouth. If you have surgery, you can still breastfeed. Put a bandage over the incision during feeding or pumping. It's important to empty the breast regularly to prevent engorgement.

### **What pain medications are safe during breastfeeding?**

It's safe to take Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 650-1000 mg every 4 to 6 hours (but no more than 4000 mg – or 8 extra-strength pills – per day) or Ibuprofen (Motrin) 400-600 mg every 6 hours.

### **Who should I call with questions?**

If you have questions after seeing the breast surgery team, page 919-216-1040.

If you do not see the breast surgery team, call the OB nurse advice line at 919-966-6823. After hours, call 966-4131 and ask for the gynecology resident on call.

If you have any concerns about breastfeeding, pumping or milk supply, call the LC Warm Line at 984-974-8078 or 866-428-5608.