

Breast Lymphoscintigraphy (Sentinel Node Localisation)

Patient Information Sheet No. NM 4

Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

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Please see our website or the back of this form for more branch details.

Duration of Examination:

The procedure can take between one and three hours.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- All previous relevant imaging
- Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:
www.bensonradiology.com.au

What is a Breast Lymphoscintigraphy?

Breast Lymphoscintigraphy (sentinel node localisation) is a procedure used to identify and mark the lymph node closest to a tumour in the breast. This is routinely performed immediately prior to breast surgery in order to help the surgeon determine which lymph nodes need to be removed.

Preparation needed prior to the examination:

There is no specific preparation required. You may take your medications as normal.

If having other examinations on the same day please notify our staff as the order of your examinations must be carefully planned.

What will happen during the examination?

The procedure involves one to four injections into the breast around the lesion. The injection sites sting for a brief period. After this the procedure is painless.

Images are taken by a special machine called a gamma camera shortly after the injection and continue for about 30 minutes. The time it takes to localise the sentinel node can vary greatly between patients. In some cases, the node may not be visualized on the scan at all. This does not mean that your operation will be unsuccessful, as surgeons use a number of methods to localise affected lymph nodes.

Once the sentinel lymph node is identified on the images, the position is marked on your skin with a permanent marker. These marks will guide the surgeon to the sentinel node.

Are there any risks?

This procedure has no associated side effects.

Pregnant, Breast Feeding Patients and Carers of Infants:

This examination is **not suitable** for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to **cease breast feeding for 12 hours after** the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 12 hours.

Carers of infants and young children should avoid prolonged close contact for 12 hours following the scan. Maintaining a distance of one metre from infants and young children is recommended.

After the examination:

The nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your images. This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day. Alternatively your doctor may request that you return later to collect the imaging and report. It is important you take these images and report with you to your operation.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our branches or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.