

SENTINEL NODE SCAN

WHAT IS A SENTINEL NODE SCAN?

A sentinel node scan is used to identify the sentinel lymph nodes in the underarm. These nodes are responsible for filtering the area of the breast where the lump or abnormality is. The scan is carried out in preparation for your sentinel lymph node biopsy the following day and identifies those nodes that your surgeon may want to perform a biopsy on. A tiny amount of radiation will be injected near the breast lump by the radiographer, this injection will sting momentarily. You will be positioned under the gamma camera, (A type of scanner) about 30 minutes after your injection, and the scan will take about 40 minutes.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The benefit is it can show lymph nodes that may not be seen with other procedures.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL PREPARATION OR INSTRUCTIONS?

You may eat and drink normally and take any medication as normal.

IS THE RADIOISOTOPE INJECTION DANGEROUS?

We are all exposed to small amounts of radiation from the atmosphere throughout our lives. In all our examinations the amount of radiation is kept to the minimum so the added risk from this test is very small indeed. Your body will get rid of the radiation quickly and naturally through your kidneys.



WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE TEST?

You will be required to remove clothing from the upper part of your body and dress in a small blue gown similar to those worn during your mammogram procedure. You will be asked to lie on the scan table. The Radiographer will position the scanner, and 4 separate pictures will be taken. In some cases, once the lymph nodes appear on the pictures they will be marked on your skin with a special marker. These skin markings are intended to guide your surgeon as to the location of the nodes so that he may remove them in theatre. This is to allow examination of the nodes for the presence of disease spread.

The marked nodes may or may not contain any disease, so do not be alarmed at the markings on your skin. You will not be sedated at all and you can use your usual form of transport.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the procedure you can contact the Nuclear Medicine Department on 0161-922-6605 during the hours of 9.00am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Alternatively, write your questions in this space below and bring this with you when you attend for your scan.

ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVES

Your doctor has decided that this is the appropriate examination to investigate your condition. Any alternatives should have already been discussed with you.



SOURCE

In compiling this information leaflet, a number of recognised professional and accredited good practice guidelines have been used.

If you have a visual impairment this leaflet can be made available in bigger print or on audiotape. If you require either of these options please contact the Patient Information Centre on 0161 922 5332

Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service (LIPS):

If you require an interpreter to assist your appointment, please ask an appropriate family member to contact our central booking office between **Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm** on **0161 922 6991** to arrange this for you.

語言 翻譯及病者支持服務 (LIPS)

如果閣下需要翻譯員在您的預約當日幫助您的話 請找一名合適的家庭成員 **0161 922 6991** 聯絡本中央預約辦事處來您您安排 我們的辦公時間是星期一至星期五 上午 8 時至下午 5 時

Językowo Tłumaczeniowa Usługa Pomocy dla Pacjenta (*Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service* LIPS):

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy tłumacza w trakcie swojej wizyty, proszę poprosić odpowiedniego członka rodziny o skontaktowanie się z Centralnym Biurem Zamówień (*Central Booking Office*), w celu zorganizowania tłumacza pomiędzy poniedziałkiem a piątkiem w godzinach od **08:00 - 17:00** pod numerem **0161 922 6991**.

لینگویج، انٹریٹیشن اینڈ پیسٹ سپورٹ سروس (Lips)

اگر آپ کو اپنی اپائنٹمنٹ کے لئے مترجم کی مدد کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی اپنے خاندان کے کسی موزوں فرد سے کہیں کہ وہ ہمارے سنٹرل بکنگ آفس سے پیر سے جمعہ 8.00 بجے صبح سے 5.00 بجے شام کے دوران 0161 922 6991 پر فون کر کے اس کا بندوبست کریں۔

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