



DEPARTMENT OF THERANOSTICS & NUCLEAR MEDICINE PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

SENTINEL NODE SCAN

WHAT IS IT FOR?

A sentinel node scan is used to map the lymphatic drainage from a breast or melanoma lesion to assist during surgery. By demonstrating the lymphatic drainage, and marking the skin, the surgeon can also use a gamma probe to localize the sentinel (first) node(s) and remove them for biopsy.

A sentinel node scan may be performed either the day prior to surgery or the morning of.

A sentinel node scan may vary dependent on the site of your lesion, and each persons naturally varying rates of drainage visualization.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

When undergoing a sentinel node scan, you can expect the following to occur:-

- You will be first interviewed with doctor to obtain your medical history.
- You will be directed to the scanner bed.
- You will be asked to remove any metallic items from your person, and remove clothing around the injection site- you may be asked to wear a hospital gown.
- You will be given 1-4 injections just under the skin which may sting temporarily, and asked to massage the area if possible before imaging commences.
- Imaging will commence and continue until a node is identified and marked. This may happen quickly or take multiple hours.
- Once imaging has been complete, you have finished the procedure. You will be asked to wait and given a copy of the

report and images to take to your surgeon.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

It is challenging to give a timeframe for the duration of the procedure. The minimum is 1hr and can take up to ~4hrs. Please allow for ample time to complete this procedure.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

To prepare for a sentinel node scan you are advised to:-

- Bring any information such as previous films, blood results, medication list etc. with you.
- Wear warm, loose fitted, comfortable clothing without metal.
- You may eat/drink before this procedure.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE

- If you are pregnant and/or breastfeeding.
- If you are feeling unwell (i.e. cold, flu etc.) and/or if you are claustrophobic.
- Likely to be delayed more than fifteen minutes from your appointment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Nuclear Medicine or your test, please call the department on : (02) 8382 1830 or alternatively you can email on: svhs.nm@svha.org.au