

Patient information

Sentinel Node Injection

Nuclear Medicine Imaging Department

What is a sentinel node injection?

This is a simple procedure which enables your surgeon to locate the lymph nodes draining the fluid from your affected breast.

What are the benefits of a sentinel node injection?

This test will enable your surgeon to identify the correct lymph node(s) to remove. This examination is important in the accurate diagnosis of your condition so that you can receive the correct treatment

What are the risks of this procedure?

People often worry about tests or treatments that involve the use of radioactive materials. We tend to forget that we are all exposed to background radiation every day. Please remember that the amount of extra radiation from your test is small. The benefit to you of providing your doctor with useful information about your health far outweighs any risk related to this radiation.

Are there any alternative diagnostic tests available?

While there may be alternative diagnostic tests, your doctor has considered your particular case and has decided that this is the most appropriate test at this time.

What will happen if I decide not to have this test?

It is your decision whether or not to proceed with this injection. However, if you do not your doctor may not be able to find out what is wrong and may not be able to plan the appropriate treatment for you.

Female patients

Where possible, we try to avoid using radioactive materials in patients who are, or may be pregnant. Therefore, please contact the department on Tel: 0151 706 4476 if you are:

- Pregnant.
- breast-feeding.
- you think you could be pregnant.
- your appointment is more than ten days from the start of your last period.

If you are worried and have any questions, please speak to your doctor or a member of their team.

Getting ready for your sentinel node injection

There is no preparation for this test.

Your sentinel node injection

- You will attend the Department of Nuclear Medicine on the day of your operation or the day before your operation.
- You will be given an injection of a radioactive liquid into the soft tissue of your affected breast.
- During your operation a special radiation probe will be used by the surgeon to identify the lymph node(s) to be removed.

This injection **should not** make you feel unwell.

After your scan

You should carry this letter with you if you are travelling through train stations, airports and seaports. These areas may have very sensitive radiation detectors in place that can detect extremely small quantities of radiation. It is just possible that, until the radioactivity from this test has completely left your body, you may trigger one of these detectors.

In the unlikely event that this occurs, there is no reason to be concerned. Customs officials who operate these types of detectors are experienced in understanding what the detector has picked up

After asking you a few simple questions and conducting a brief non-intrusive examination with a hand held detector, will let you pass on your way as soon as possible.

Different countries have different procedures and some may wish to see your appointment letter as part of this process. If you are planning to travel in the next month it is recommended that you carry this letter with you.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Department of Nuclear Medicine:

Tel: 0151 706 4453

Textphone Number: 18001 0151 706 4453

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زانیاری پتوهندیدار بهو نهخوشانهی له‌لایمن تراستهوه په‌سهند کراون، ئه‌گهر داوا بکریت له فورماته‌کانی تردا بریتی له زمانه‌کانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گه‌وره، شریتی ده‌نگ، هیلی موون و ئه‌لیکترۆنیکی هیه.

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