

Breast lymphoscintigraphy

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

This procedure can take between 30 minutes 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:

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.

Patient preparation

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 may sting for a brief period. After this the procedure is painless.

Images are taken by a special 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 visualised on the scan at all. This does not mean 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.

For some examinations it may be required to avoid prolonged close contact with infants and young children. If you have any queries regarding this please speak with our technical staff on the day of your appointment.

After the examination

The nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your images. This can take up to 60 minutes. It is important you take these images and report with you to your operation.