

## Sentinel lymph node scintigraphy

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### Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to locate the lymph node to which the lymphatic vessels from the area of change lead. This lymph node is called the sentinel lymph node. The location of the lymph node is marked on the skin with a marker pen to help the surgeon find it more easily during surgery.

The discovery of the sentinel lymph node does not necessarily mean that there is cancer or metastases in the armpit. The possible spread of cancer to this lymph node can only be determined after the surgeon and pathologist have examined it.

### Preparations

- No special preparation is required.
- You may eat and drink normally before and after the study.
- If you are allergic (especially to human albumin), inform your attending nurse.

### Study protocol

A radiopharmaceutical is injected into the skin or directly into the tumor. When the injection is given into the skin, the radiopharmaceutical is allowed to accumulate in the sentinel lymph node for 20 minutes to an hour before the imaging begins. If the injection is given directly into the tumor, a waiting period of 3 hours is required before the imaging begins. During the imaging, the movement of the substance through the lymphatic vessels is observed, and the location(s) of the sentinel lymph node(s) is/are marked on the skin. Multiple lymph nodes may be imaged, and all of them are marked on the skin. This is completely normal.

You will be lying down during the imaging. The imaging usually takes about half an hour. If necessary, additional images may be taken to obtain the most accurate results.

### Notice

You will be administered a small amount of radioactive material that radiates within you, therefore you should keep a certain distance to children and pregnant women for the next 24 hours. After 24 hours the radioactive material has exited your body and you are no longer radiating.

You can wash as usual, but be careful not to rub off the areas marked on your skin

Please do not wear any perfume when coming to the department as it may cause severe symptoms to patients with asthma or allergy!

## **Contact information**

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from Monday to Friday between 7.00–14.30