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Your appointment

Date:

Time:

Patient Preparation:
Nil.

Time for Examination:
1-4 hours.

Please Bring:
**All previous Imaging including
Nuclear Medicine Scans, X-
rays, US, CT and MRI studies.**

Location:

**Calvary Hospital
X-Ray Department
89 Strangways Tc
North Adelaide SA 5006**

Parking:

Free on-street parking is available (1hour, 2 hour and all day). Please take note of parking time limits as this area is patrolled by council.

Radiology SA Nuclear Specialists:

Dr Rey Casse MBBS FRACP
Dr Ghee Chew MBBS, FRACP
Dr Vivian Hall MBBS, FRANZCR
Dr Robert Cooper MBBS FRANZCR

Phone: 08 8402 0270
Fax: 08 8402 0269
E-mail: vicky.sigalas@radiologysa.com.au

NUCLEAR MEDICINE SENTINEL LYMPH NODE SCAN

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Your doctor has recommended that you have a Nuclear Medicine Sentinel Lymph Node Scan. This is a test done just prior to surgery to localise the sentinel lymph node (i.e the first lymph node draining the area of interest) for your surgeon. It is commonly requested for patients with breast cancer or melanoma (skin cancer). There is no specific preparation for the test.

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine department you will be asked to change into a patient gown. (Often you will still be able to keep most of your clothes on and only remove your upper garments). This is to allow the doctor easy access to the area of interest. The doctor will then need to inject a small amount of radioactive material around your breast lump, melanoma or melanoma excision site. (If your breast lump is not palpable, the injection will be given under ultrasound guidance). The injection can be given in up to four sites around the area of interest. The injection will go just under the skin and will sting momentarily. The area injected will also be momentarily rubbed vigorously to encourage lymphatic flow. There are no side-effects to the injection.

Imaging will commence immediately following injection. You will be positioned under a camera such that the injection site and any lymph sites the injection could drain to, will be visualised. Imaging will continue until the sentinel lymph nodes draining lymph from the injection site appears on our scan. You will be positioned in a couple at least 2 of poses to help localise the node in two planes. This gives the surgeon an indication of the depth of the lymph node.

It is impossible to tell from one patient to the next how long it will take until the lymph node appears. This generally ranges from 5 minutes to in excess of hours. We will continue imaging on and off until the node appears or until you are required for surgery. If imaging is needed over more than an hour, you will be given the opportunity to have breaks between pictures. In a small number of patients, no lymph node will be identified.

Once the lymph node is identified, the node (or sometimes nodes) will be mapped and marked on your skin with a surgical texta. These skin markings are then used intended for guiding by your surgeon as to the location of at theatre to remove the sentinel the draining lymph nodes so that they can be removed in theatre to allow examination for the presence of tumour spread. The mapped nodes may or may not contain tumour cells, so do not be alarmed if several nodes are marked on your skin.

This study is unsuitable for pregnant women.

**For more information please contact:
08 8402 0270**

