



radiology SA

YOUR APPOINTMENT:

Date:

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Time:

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LOCATIONS:

- ☐ Calvary North Adelaide
☐ Calvary Central Districts

**RADIOLOGY SA NUCLEAR
SPECIALISTS:**

Dr Ghee Chew
Dr Vivian Hall
Dr Robert Cooper
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NOTES:

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Patient Information Handout

Lymphoscintigraphy for Sentinel Node Localisation

A Nuclear Medicine Lymphoscintigraphy Scan is performed to localise the sentinel node, which is the first lymph node draining fluid from the tumour in your breast or skin (melanoma). This test is done either on the day of your surgery or sometimes the day before your surgery.

The doctor will inject a radioactive “tracer” into your breast or around the melanoma site/scar. Most commonly one injection is given around the outside of the areola (the dark area around the nipple) just under the skin. For melanoma, 2 to 4 injections may be given. The injection can sting. There are no side effects to the tracer. After the injection you will be instructed to rub the area and do some simple exercises/movements with your arms to encourage the tracer to disperse.

Once the injection has been performed you will be positioned underneath the scanner and images will be taken, roughly every 15 minutes with a wait in between, until the lymph node is localised. Sometimes the lymph node appears quickly and sometimes it can take time to appear. Once the lymph node is identified it will be marked out on your skin with a permanent texta. These skin markings are then used to guide your surgeon as to the location of the sentinel node, so they may remove it during surgery.

BOOKING YOUR APPOINTMENT

Please call our friendly staff on 8402 0200. You may request a site convenient to you; otherwise the booking staff can suggest your nearest location.

WHAT TO BRING

Radiology referral
Medicare card
Healthcare / Concession card (if applicable)
Previous relevant imaging

PREPARATION FOR YOUR STUDY

No preparation is required for this examination.

TIME REQUIRED

This test can take anywhere from 1 to 2.5 hours.

