



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **SENTINAL LYMPH NODE MAPPING (LYMPHOSCINTIGRAPHY)**

The following information is a brief description of Lymphoscintigraphy. If you have any questions after reading this information, please speak with your doctor or nurse.

### **WHAT IS A SENTINAL LYMPH NODE MAPPING?**

- ❖ Examination of the fluid called lymph and tissue called nodes which make up the body's filtering system (the lymphatic system).
- ❖ A low-level radioactive substance is injected near the site to be examined. A picture of any radiation source from the lymphatic system is then taken and reviewed by a radiologist.

### **WHY IS IT DONE?**

- ❖ A biopsy and microscopic examination of lymph nodes can be done to determine if there are any abnormal cells in the nodes.
- ❖ Sentinel nodes (those round masses of tissue which collect fluid from the involved area) can be located.
- ❖ Lymphoscintigraphy may be done prior to surgery for certain types of cancer to locate the sentinel node. The sentinel node is the node closest to the cancer. If the sentinel node is removed and found to be cancer free, it may not be necessary to remove additional lymph nodes.

### **WHERE IS THE PROCEDURE DONE?**

- ❖ Nuclear Medicine Department, Second floor, Tisch Hospital.

### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**

- ❖ Injections and scans take 45-60 minutes.
- ❖ May be necessary to have test done twice.

### **WHAT PREPARATION IS NEEDED?**



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- ❖ No special preparation is needed.
- ❖ Pregnant women should not have the test.
- ❖ Notify the technician or radiologist if you are breast-feeding.

### **WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?**

- ❖ While you are lying on the scanning table, the doctor will clean the skin with a solution that feels cool.
- ❖ Very thin needles are used to inject a small amount of radioactive substance in 3 or 4 places.
- ❖ Scans will be done soon after the injections. These may take 10-30 minutes.
- ❖ The first injections and scans will identify the number and location of nodes that drain the area. These areas may be marked with ink during scanning.
- ❖ A second set of scans may be needed. This will take 10-20 minutes.

### **WHAT YOU MAY FEEL?**

- ❖ The cleaning solution used may feel cool.
- ❖ The insertion of the needles may cause no or little discomfort.
- ❖ A burning sensation, lasting only 5-10 seconds, may be felt with each injection.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?**

- ❖ There are no restrictions to activity or diet, unless you are told otherwise by the doctor.
- ❖ If needed, you will be given a marker and shown how to reinforce the ink marks on your skin.
- ❖ If you are having surgery the same day as the scans you will have the injections but less scanning. Your doctor will use a special probe in the Operating Room to locate the nodes at the time of surgery.

### **WHEN DO I OBTAIN THE RESULTS**

- ❖ Results of the test will be given to your doctor in 1-2 days.
- ❖ Your doctor will discuss the results with you.



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