

Having a sentinel node injection before breast surgery

Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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This leaflet has some extra information about your radioactive sentinel node injection. This is in addition to the information leaflet from Breast Care. Please make sure that you read both of these.

The injection will be given in the Nuclear Medicine department either :

- on the morning of the surgery (same day) or
- the afternoon before the surgery (day before)

If you cannot attend your appointment please call 0116 258 3850.

What is a sentinel node injection?

- A technologist or nurse will explain what is involved and you can ask us any questions.
- A small amount of radioactive fluid will be injected into your breast. This will feel very similar to other injections you may have had before (for example, before your core biopsy).
- It takes less than a minute to complete.
- After your injection, the area may sting for a time, but this will wear off as the fluid travels to your lymph nodes.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

What happens after the injection?

- There are no side effects from the injection, but a small amount of radiation will stay in your body for about 24 hours
- Flush the toilet at least 2 times as your pee (urine) will be slightly radioactive during this time
- Wash your hands well each time you use the toilet
- There is no need for you to avoid close contact with anyone after your injection
- You will be asked to stay in department for about 10 minutes after your injection

If you have any concerns about the radioactive injection, please contact the department on **0116 258 3850**.

Are there any risks?

It is very unlikely that you will have any side effects from the radioactive injection. There is a small risk linked with the radiation you get by having this injection.

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of developing cancer during our lifetime. The normal risk is that this will happen to about 50% of people at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will get from this injection is very small. It is the same dose you would get from the environment over about 11 days. Having this injection will add only a very small chance of this happening to you. In fact, the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this injection may be much higher.

As with any injection, there is a small chance that you might have an allergic reaction. This is very rare. If you are having this procedure as an outpatient, we will ask you to stay in the department for about 10 minutes after your injection. If you have no concerns after this time, you will be free to leave the department.

More information

Useful websites:

British Nuclear Medicine Society: www.bnms.org.uk

Radiology Info www.radiologyinfo.org

Patient Info www.patient.co.uk

Medical Imaging: www.informed-scan.com



Contact details

For specific information about your test, please contact (answering machine checked during office hours):

Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0116 258 5627

Glenfield Hospital: 0116 258 3850

Leicester Radiopharmacy Service: 0116 258 5579

If you have a question about your medical condition please contact your GP or the doctor who made your referral.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

જે તુમીં ઇચ જાહવારી વિમે હેર જામ્ના વિચિ ચાહુંદે હે, ઝાં વિરખા વરવે હેઠાં સિંઝે ગાદે નંબર 'ઝે ટેલીફોન વરે।
Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk