

# Having a penile sentinel node injection and scan

Department of Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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## What is a penile sentinel node injection and scan?

This is a safe and simple procedure that uses a small amount of radioactivity. It allows your surgeon to locate the sentinel lymph nodes. These are the first lymph nodes to which any fluid from the penis will drain.

### You must tell us if:

- you have problems with your memory or learning difficulties.
- you need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment).

## Your Nuclear Medicine appointment

You will have your procedure in the Nuclear Medicine service either:

- the day before your surgery (late morning or early afternoon), or
- the day of your surgery (early in the morning)

Please note that the Nuclear Medicine procedure is not always done at the same hospital as your surgery. We will book taxis to get you between hospitals if needed.

Your appointment letter will tell you the date, time and location of your Nuclear Medicine appointment. If you are unsure of anything please contact us on the number given on the letter.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## How do I prepare for the scan?

You do not need to do anything to prepare for the Nuclear Medicine procedure.

For the surgery itself your surgeon should already have explained what preparation is needed.

## What happens during the injection and scan?

The test will be explained to you and you may ask any questions that you have.

Local anaesthetic cream will be put around the base of your penis in order to numb this area before the injection. This is usually done on the ward, before you go to the Nuclear Medicine department.

After a short wait for the cream to take effect (usually about 30 minutes) you will have your injection.

You will have several (usually 4) small radioactive injections around the numbed area at the base of your penis. You should not feel any ill effects from this. Some patients do get a stinging sensation, which will slowly go away in the minutes after injection.

After the injection, we will use our scanner (called a gamma camera) to take images at different times and at several different angles around your pelvis while you lie still. The gamma camera can detect the radiation from the injections. The images it produces can help the surgeons to locate the sentinel nodes. You will also have a CT scan, which will help the surgeons to be more accurate.

The camera itself will not cause any pain or discomfort and is relatively quiet.

During the imaging you will need to lie flat and still for up to 40 minutes at a time.

## How long will it take?

The injections take a few minutes. You will have your scan straight afterwards.

The scan takes 1.5 to 2 hours in total, but you will not need to lie on the scanning bed for the whole of this time. In between taking the images you may be able to sit in our waiting area. We may ask you to walk up and down the corridor for some of the time as this can help to speed up the drainage of the injection into the sentinel nodes. After the scan you will go back to the ward. We will arrange a taxi, if needed.

## Surgery appointment

You should get details of the date, time and location of your admission for the surgery itself through a separate communication from the surgical team. If you have not yet had any details please contact them directly as soon as possible.

## What happens after the scan?

You will be radioactive for 24 hours after you have had your injection. To minimise any risk to yourself and others we ask you to:

- flush the toilet twice after each use. You should also sit down when going for a pee.
- wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- usually there is no problem in returning to work. Please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry.

## Are there any risks?

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

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of getting cancer in our lifetime. About 50% of people will get cancer at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will get from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would get from the environment in about 15 days. Having this test will only increase your risk of getting cancer by a very small amount. The risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be much bigger.

## Useful information

Please do not bring children or pregnant women with you to your appointment. Radiation is more dangerous for children and pregnant women. You should not bring them into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

If you need hospital transport, please see our website <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk>

## Directions to Nuclear Medicine

- Leicester Royal Infirmary – Level 0, Sandringham Building (behind the multi-storey car park).
- Glenfield Hospital – the best way to get to the department is via the east entrance.



## Contact details

For 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 sent you for this procedure.

## More information

Useful websites:

[www.bnms.org.uk](http://www.bnms.org.uk)

[www.radiologyinfo.org](http://www.radiologyinfo.org)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

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 અસ્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਵਿਰਧਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

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](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)