



Pullman Regional Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

What is Breast Lymphoscintigraphy?

Breast Lymphoscintigraphy is performed a day prior to or the day of breast surgery. The procedure helps the breast surgeon find the first lymph node (also known as the Sentinel node) in the lymphatic drainage pathway.

Before the procedure

There is no special preparation for this procedure.

During the procedure

Once you are registered and checked in at the Same Day Surgery department, a technologist will come to greet you and bring you into the Nuclear Medicine department. The technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have. You will then lie down on the bed, beneath the imaging camera. The technologist will clean the breast(s) that is going to be imaged using a betadine soap. They will then inject an imaging tracer into one or both breast(s), depending on the orders from your doctor.

The technologist will then take images of the breast(s) to locate the lymph node(s). Once the lymph node(s) is located, the technologist will use a marker and place a small mark on your skin. Your surgeon will use this as a guide for finding the Sentinel lymph node(s) during your surgery.

If there are no lymph nodes seen after imaging, your surgeon will use other means to detect and locate the lymph nodes during surgery.

The imaging takes about 1-2 hours depending on if we are imaging one or both breasts.

After the procedure

If you are having surgery on the same day, we will bring you back to the same day surgery suite after your imaging procedure where the operating room staff will greet you and get you ready for your surgery. If you are having surgery the following morning, then you can return home after the imaging procedure. Your surgeon will receive your images and a report.

Thank you

We are honored that you have chosen Pullman Regional Hospital to serve your healthcare needs