



Pullman Regional Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department

What is a Lymphatic Melanoma Mapping Scan?

This is a test done to look at the lymph nodes that might be involved with a particular skin cancer called melanoma. It is done to help the surgeon locate the first lymph node (Sentinel node) during surgery. During surgery, the lymph nodes surrounding the cancer are usually removed and checked for possible spread of cancer.

Before your scan

There is no special preparation for this procedure.

During your scan

Once you are registered and checked in at the Outpatient Services desk, a technician will come out to greet you and bring you into the department. The technician will explain your test and answer any questions you might have.

Once you are ready to begin, the technologist will perform a series of injections around the area of the skin cancer. The technologist injects a special imaging tracer that does not cause any side effects. There are usually 4 injections performed using a very small needle.

After the injections, the technician will use a special imaging camera and take pictures of where the tracer is flowing in your body. If lymph nodes begin to show on the images, the technician will use a special marker and place a marking on your skin where the closest node is seen to the injection site.

The surgeon then uses this marking as a reference point to where the sentinel node is located.

The scan and marking takes about 1-2 hours to complete.

After the Scan

If you are having surgery on the day of your mapping scan, the technician will bring you to Same Day Surgery. The images and results of your scan will go directly to the surgeon before your surgery.

Thank you

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