



# Patient Information: Breast Lymphoscintigraphy Before Lumpectomy/Partial Mastectomy/Mastectomy

## Reason for Having This Procedure

This procedure assists your surgeon in locating specific lymph nodes in your underarm area. During surgery the surgeon will remove these specific lymph nodes. The pathologist will analyze them to determine if any cancer cells are present. This information helps stage your cancer.

## Procedure Description

The radiologist will inject a small amount of radioactive material that also contains anesthetic under the nipple of the affected breast. You will be asked to vigorously massage “shake” the breast for 30 minutes with time out to rest when necessary. You will then lie on a scan table. A camera will be focused on your chest and underarm area for pictures to be taken. This takes another 30 minutes. The pictures and report of the pictures will accompany you back to the surgical preparation area.

## Appointment and Day of Arrival

Your surgeon will make all arrangements for your appointment date and time. You will be given instructions about your time of arrival. Please wear comfortable clothes and do not bring valuables with you. Staff will help you get settled in our Peri-Op department on the second floor where you will be given a hospital gown to wear and asked to lie down on a stretcher. A nurse will apply an anesthetic cream around the nipple of the affected breast. It will be allowed to take effect for 60 minutes. You will then be taken to the Nuclear Medicine department on your stretcher.

## During the Procedure

A Nuclear Medicine technologist will introduce herself, review your chart, and verify your identity. She will explain that the radiologist will inject a radioactive tracer that also contains an anesthetic under the nipple of your affected breast, and that there is the slight possibility that it may sting (the anesthetic cream applied earlier reduces or eliminates the sting). She will tell you that you will need to massage the breast vigorously after injection for 30 minutes. You will then move to a scan table and pictures will be taken of your breast and underarm area for 30 minutes. When the imaging is complete you will be taken back to the surgical preparation area on your stretcher. The nurses in the surgical prep area will continue your care until your surgery time.