

Melanoma Sentinel Node Scan

Your doctor has asked us to carry out a Melanoma Sentinel Node scan on you.

Appointment details

Patient name:

Date of appointment:

Time of appointment:

Injection time:

Scan time:

Every effort will be made to keep to this time, but due to the nature of the investigations, delay can occur for which we apologise in advance.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please inform us at least 24 hours in advance of your scan, due to the high cost of the non-returnable Radio-isotope used during this scan there will be a cancellation cost of £300 if cancelled with less notice.

Please telephone 01483 442696, so an alternative appointment can be arranged for you.

What does the Sentinel Node Scan involve?

A sentinel node scan is a test used to find and mark where your lymph nodes are. When you come for the appointment we will inject a small amount of radioactive tracer around the melanoma. After the injection a scan will be carried out for 10 minutes and then you will be asked to come back for more scans. These will be at least 1 hour after the injection and we may also scan 2-6 hours after the injection. After the lymph nodes are seen on the scan we will mark on your skin where these are.

The radioactive tracer is used to help make a diagnosis. When injected it circulates in the blood and temporarily collects in the lymph nodes. It is then detected from outside the body using a special camera, and a picture, known as a scan, will be taken. The results of your scan will give your doctor useful information about your condition.

Preparation required for the Sentinel Node Scan

If you are having surgery in the afternoon of the day of the scan, please follow the advised fasting instructions. If your surgery is the day after the scan, you may eat, drink and take your medication as normal.

Can I bring somebody with me?

It is very important that you do not bring children or pregnant friends with you because the scan uses radiation and children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to radiation.

Special Warnings

You may feel some discomfort from the pinprick of the injection. Side effects from the injection are extremely rare.

A very small amount of radioactivity is injected into your body. The risk this involves is very small and your physician will not consider carrying out the investigation unless he believes that the risk is outweighed by the potential benefit of the study.

Further guidance has been published by Public Health England.

Visit website- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice>

Do I need to do anything after the scan?

If you are having surgery in the afternoon of the day of the scan, please follow the advised fasting instructions. If your surgery is the day after the scan, you may eat, drink and take your medication as normal.

Also, it is advised that for 12 hours following the radiopharmaceutical injection, you should avoid prolonged close contact with pregnant women, babies and children.

Further information is available should you require it.

Information for ladies

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, we need to know before the injection of radioactivity.

In addition, if you are currently breastfeeding, again please inform the staff, as for certain procedures you may have to discontinue breast feeding for a certain period.

For further information please contact us in the Molecular Imaging unit on 01483 442696