

## NUCLEAR MEDICINE

# SENTINEL LYMPH NODE SCAN

**Appointment  
Date:**

**Time:**

**Patient Preparation:**  
Nil – however there will be restrictions placed on you due to your surgery

**Time For Examination:**  
1 – 4 hours.

**Please Bring:**  
Any related previous imaging including Nuclear Medicine Studies, X-Rays, Ultrasounds, CT and MRI scans.

**Locations:**  
Gold Coast Radiology,  
Suite 1 & 2 Harbour Point  
10 Santa Barbara Road,  
Hope Island, QLD 4212  
Phone: 07 55142555  
Fax: 07 55142511  
[www.gcradiology.com.au](http://www.gcradiology.com.au)

**Undercover parking is  
available.**

Your doctor has asked that you have a Nuclear Medicine Sentinel Lymph Node Scan. This is a test done just prior to surgery to localize the sentinel lymph node (this is the first lymph node that drains the area of interest) It is requested for patient with breast cancer or melanoma. Below are some general guidelines that will apply to most patients

You will be asked to change into a X-Ray gown. This is to allow the doctor easy access to the area of interest. The doctor will then inject a small amount of radioactive tracer around your breast lump, melanoma, or melanoma excision site. (if your breast lump is not palpable, the injection may be given under ultrasound guidance). There may be up to 4 injections around the area of interest. There are no side effects to the radiotracer injections.

Imaging will commence soon after the injections. You will be asked to lay on a scanning table and the camera positioned over the area of interest. When imaging breast cancer patients, it will be necessary to lay on the table at a slight angle, and to also have your arms up above your head. This is to allow the camera to get very close to you when the pictures are being taken. Often there are a few images taken. They will take approximately 10 – 20 minutes.

It is impossible to tell from one patient to the next how long in total this procedure will take, as it is very variable. It may take from 10 minutes to a few hours. You will continue to have pictures taken until the sentinel lymph node appears, however, in some cases no lymph node will be identified in the department.

Once the lymph node is identified, the node will be marked on your skin with a surgical texta. These skin markings are used by your surgeon to guide him to the sentinel lymph node, which can be removed and examined for the presence of tumour spread. The lymph nodes marked may or may not contain tumour.

This study is not suitable for pregnant women.

**For more information please contact:**

**07 55142555**