

## After your scan

Following your scan you can eat and drink normally. You may go anywhere you wish but please try to avoid long periods of close contact with children for the rest of the day. This is to avoid exposing them to unnecessary radiation.

## Results

The results of your sentinel node scan will be printed out. You can then take them back to Royal Marsden Hospital for the consultant to review before your surgery.

## Additional information

Please note that our Nuclear Medicine department scans many people every day. We aim to keep to your appointment time as closely as possible but should you be late, or if there is an emergency at the hospital, it may not be possible to perform your scan immediately.

## Queries

If you have any queries about your scan or wish to change the appointment, please telephone us on **020 7351 8666**.

## How to find us

The Nuclear Medicine department is on level 3, Chelsea Wing. If entering from the main entrance in Sydney Wing please go to level 3 and follow the signs for the bridge linking the two wings.

Very limited pay and display parking is available on site. There are disabled parking spaces in Cale Street, Foulis Terrace and in Sydney Wing car park. Very little public parking is available in the neighbouring streets. We strongly recommend that you use public transport if at all possible.

## Underground

The nearest underground station is South Kensington (Piccadilly, District and Circle Lines). Royal Brompton Hospital is a five to ten minute walk away.

## Buses

The following buses serve the area:  
No's 14, 345 and 49 along Fulham Road  
No's 11, 19, 22 and 319 on King's Road  
No 211 on Sydney Street.

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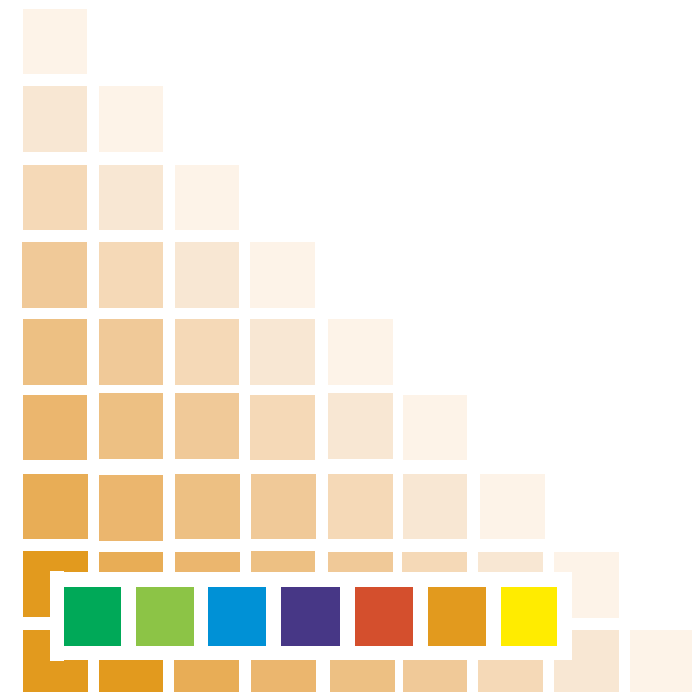
Harefield Hospital  
Hill End Road  
Harefield  
Middlesex  
UB9 6JH  
tel: 01895 823 737

minicom: 01895 828 534  
website: [www.rbht.nhs.uk](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk)

August 2005

Royal Brompton Hospital

# Your Nuclear Medicine Sentinel Node Scan



## Appointment information

Name: .....

Date: .....

Time: .....

Hospital: **Royal Brompton Hospital**

## Points to remember on the day

- There is no special preparation for this scan but please remember to drink plenty of fluid after the injection.
- Please do not bring children with you to the department. This is to avoid exposing them to unnecessary radiation.
- Please be careful not to rub off the pen mark on your skin when having a bath or shower before your surgery.

## What is Nuclear Medicine ?

Nuclear Medicine is a way of taking images of your body. We use a special camera that detects gamma-rays given out by a 'tracer' that is injected into your body. The tracer contains a small amount of radioactive material which means that your body shows up in the images we take.

## About your sentinel node scan

The lymphatic system is a network of vessels that drain fluid ('lymph') into lymph nodes. These nodes act as a filter and trap bacteria, viruses and other foreign substances.

A sentinel node scan is used to identify the sentinel lymph nodes in the axilla (underarm). These nodes are responsible for filtering the area of the breast where the lump or abnormality is.

The scan is carried out in preparation for your sentinel lymph node biopsy the following day and identifies those nodes that your surgeon may want to perform a biopsy on.

We will ask you to remove your top and bra and will give you a small injection just beneath the skin surface in the breast. We will then take three images with you lying on the scanning bed with your arms raised behind your head. We will then use a felt skin-marking pen to place a dot in the axilla over any lymph node identified.

## Is there any risk from the radiation?

The amount of radiation used is kept to a minimum. We strongly believe that the benefits of the scan far outweigh any possible risk to your health.

If you have any concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact us.

## Are there any side effects?

The substance we inject will not make you sleepy nor will it prevent you from driving a car.

## Female patients

You should not have a sentinel node scan if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant. Please tell us before you have your scan if you think you might be pregnant, if you are breast feeding or if you have very young children.

## Diabetics

If you are diabetic please continue with your normal routine. If you will need food while you are with us please bring a snack with you. If you are on insulin please bring this as well.

## Medicines

For most scans there is no need to change any regular treatment. If you are unsure, please contact us.

If you would like information about any medication you may be given during your scan, please contact us or speak to the radiographer when you attend for your appointment.