



Nuclear Medicine Sentinel Node Breast Exam

Exam scheduling

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St. Luke's

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Diagnostic Imaging

(218)249-5222

www.slhduluth.com/hospital/imaging/

Exam Information

Diagnostic Imaging

What is a Sentinel Node Breast injection exam?

This scan is a way that the sentinel node, or node nearest a tumor, can be identified by injecting radioactive particles (no side effects) under the skin.

How is the exam performed?

Depending on your surgeon, this exam will be done in pre-op several hours before your surgery or in the OR after you have been anesthetized.

Your surgeon will inject a small amount of radioactive material into the skin around your areola. This material is designed to be absorbed by the lymphatic system and will be taken up by the nearest node to the tumor or sentinel node. Your surgeon will use a special probe in surgery to identify this node for removal and biopsy. The injection process takes approximately 10 to 15 min to complete.

How should I prepare for the exam?

Refer to pre-op instructions.

What will I feel during the exam?

Your surgeon will clean the area around the areola of the affected breast with alcohol. The injection is given just under the skin of the areola which will sting and be uncomfortable. The technologist will message the area immediately after injection; the stinging usually passes quickly.

Who interprets the exam and when will I get my results?

After the exam, your surgeon will use a special probe to locate the sentinel node. The node is removed and biopsied for tumor. Your surgeon will give you the final results.