

Sentinel lymph node injection

The morning of your procedure you will get an injection that contains a small amount of radioactive substance. The radioactivity is very little (equal to a chest x-ray), and most of this is removed with the sentinel node. Patients often say the injection feels like a needlestick.

The injection is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department. After the injection, you will go to Same Day Surgery (SDS) for a few hours. From SDS you will go to the Operating Room.

While in the Operating Room you will get another injection of blue dye to help identify the sentinel node(s). You will not feel this injection as you will be asleep with a general anesthetic.

There is less than 1% risk of an allergic reaction to the blue dye. Your anesthesiologist will be prepared in advance to treat any problems.

After your procedure

You will go to Same Day Surgery to recover before going home.

The blue dye will turn your urine and bowel movements a blue green. This lasts less than 24 hours. There may be some faint blue tattooing of the skin where the dye was injected. This will go away in a few days, rarely is it permanent.

Call your surgeon

If you have:

- a fever greater than 38°C or 100°F
- any redness, swelling or pus from your incision