

Breast Lymphoscintogram

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is an imaging modality which uses radioactive tracers to image physiological processes in the body. This allows for functional assessment and imaging of a wide range of systems and organs.

What is a breast lymphoscintogram?

This is a test that aims to demonstrate the first draining lymph node from the breast tissue as a precursor to surgery.

What preparation is required?

No specific preparation is required. You can eat and drink normally before the test. However, **if you are to have surgery on the same day please follow the preparation required for surgery**, as advised by your doctor.

What is involved?

An injection containing a small amount of radioactive tracer will be administered under the skin around the nipple area. This injection will sting for 5-10 seconds, however this subsides quickly as the lymphatic system drains it away.

If you are concerned about discomfort during the administration of the injection please contact the nuclear medicine department.

Following the injection you will have a series of images which may take up to one hour, depending on the speed of your lymphatic system.

Are there any side effects?

You will not feel any different following the injections, once the initial stinging has worn off. You will be able to continue with your usual daily activities. The amount of radioactivity is very small.

How long will this take?

This test will take 1-2 hours depending on the lymphatic drainage.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **A report is available within 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available to your doctor.

How much will this cost?

Please ask reception staff of the cost involved at the time of booking your appointment.

Important

It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.