

# Nuclear Medicine Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node Scan

Your doctor has referred you for a Nuclear Medicine Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node scan.

It is important that you read the enclosed booklet "Information about your Nuclear Medicine Test" with this leaflet.

## What is a Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node Scan?

A Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node scan is a simple test that helps your Surgeon find your lymph nodes during surgery.

## Do I need to do any special preparation before the Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node Scan?

There is no special preparation for this test. If you are to attend for surgery on the same day as your scan please follow the instructions for fasting you have been given. If you are not going for surgery on the same day you can eat and drink as normal.

## What does a Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node Scan involve?

A Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node scan involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive liquid into your body near the site of your surgery. This liquid drains into and follows the path of your lymphatic system. The liquid may then travel to nearby lymph nodes.

After the injection we will take a series of pictures of your head and neck. After the scan, staff may place some marks on your skin with a marker pen, this is to help the Surgeon in theatre. Your surgeon or a member of staff performing your scan may mark your skin. Sometimes further pictures are necessary; staff will advise you if this is the case.

The radioactive liquid used for this scan is licensed in the United Kingdom (UK) and has official approval to use for breast sentinel node scans. It is not currently officially approved for head and neck sentinel node scans. However, it has safely been used to perform this scan for over 10 years.

## How long does the scan last?

Scans may last up to 60-90 minutes.

## Your appointment

If you can't make this appointment please tell us as soon as possible – we can arrange another appointment.

## Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Where possible we try to avoid performing Head and Neck Sentinel Lymph Node scans on patients who are, or may be pregnant. Therefore please contact the department if you are:

- Pregnant
- Breast-feeding
- You think you could be pregnant

If you are booking transport through the Scottish Ambulance Service please contact them as soon as possible and advise them you will be in the department for approximately 2 hours.