

Having a penile sentinel node injection and scan

Department of Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients

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What is a penile sentinel node injection and scan?

This is a safe and simple procedure that uses a small amount of radioactivity to allow your surgeon to locate the sentinel lymph nodes (which are the first lymph nodes to which any fluid from the penis will drain).

You must tell us if:

- you have problems with your memory or learning difficulties.
- you need an interpreter (please tell us at least 3 days before your appointment).

Your Nuclear Medicine appointment

Depending on how your surgery is scheduled, the Nuclear Medicine procedure will take place in the Nuclear Medicine service either:

- on the day before surgery (late morning or early afternoon), or
- on the day of surgery (early in the morning)

Please note that the Nuclear Medicine procedure is not necessarily carried out at the same hospital as your surgery.

Your appointment letter will contain all of these details including the date, time and location of your Nuclear Medicine appointment, but if you are unsure of anything please contact us on the number given.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

How do I prepare for the scan?

For the Nuclear Medicine procedure there is no special preparation needed.

For the surgery itself your surgeon should already have explained what preparation is needed.

What happens during the injection and scan?

The test will be explained to you and you may ask any questions that you have.

Local anaesthetic cream will be put around the end of your penis in order to numb this area before the injection.

After a short wait for the cream to take effect (usually about 30 minutes) you will have your injection.

The injection actually comprises several (usually 4) small radioactive injections around the numbed area at the end of the penis. You should not feel any ill effects from this, though some patients do get a stinging sensation, which will slowly go away in the minutes after injection.

After the injection, we will use our scanner (called a gamma camera) to take images at different times and at several different angles around your pelvis while you lie still. The gamma camera can detect the radiation from the injections and the images it produces can help the surgeons to locate the sentinel nodes.

The camera itself will not cause any pain or discomfort and is relatively quiet.

During the imaging you will need to lie flat and relatively still for an extended period.

Skin marking: toward the end of the scan we will mark the location of any sentinel nodes on the surface of your skin with a pen. In order to do this we may need to shave the skin in these locations.

To make sure the marks stay in place until the time of your surgery we may apply a thin, transparent, waterproof medical dressing over the top of each mark.

Surgery appointment

You should receive details of the date, time and location of your admission for the surgery itself via a separate communication from the surgical team. If you have not yet received any details please contact them directly as soon as possible.

What happens after the scan?

You will be radioactive after you have had your injection for the next 24 hours. To minimise any risk to yourself and others we ask you to:

- drink plenty of extra fluids.
- flush the toilet well after use (men should sit down when going for a pee).

- wash your hands thoroughly each time you use the toilet.
- avoid long contact (more than 30 minutes) with anyone who is or maybe pregnant, small children and babies.
- usually there is no problem in returning to work, however please ask staff for advice if you work with radiation or in the photographic industry.

Are there any risks?

It is very unlikely that you will have any side effects from the radioactive injection. There is a small risk associated with the radiation you receive by having this scan.

Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may, after many years or decades, turn cancerous. We are all at risk of developing cancer during our lifetime. The normal risk is that this will happen to about 50% of people at some point in their life.

The dose of radiation you will receive from this test is very small. It is the same dose you would receive from the environment in approximately 9 months. Having this test will therefore add only a very small chance of this happening to you. In fact, the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this test may be considerably greater.

How will I get my results?

Your scan will be looked at by a radiologist and the results passed on to your consultant. They will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Useful information

You may wish to bring a relative or friend with you. Due to the nature of the examination, friends and relatives will not be allowed into the room during the procedure, unless we need their assistance.

Please do not bring children with you to your appointment. Radiation is more hazardous for children and pregnant women than for adults, so please do not bring them into the Nuclear Medicine Department unless they are coming for a scan.

If you need hospital transport, please see our website <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk> or call TASL on 0345 241 3012 at least 3 days before your appointment.

Directions to Nuclear Medicine

- Leicester Royal Infirmary – Level 0, Sandringham Building (behind the multi-storey car park).
- Glenfield Hospital – the department is best reached via the east entrance.

Contact details

For specific information about your test, please contact (answering machine checked during office hours):

Leicester Royal Infirmary: 0116 258 5627

Glenfield Hospital: 0116 258 3850

Leicester Radiopharmacy Service: 0116 258 5579

If you have a question about your medical condition please contact your GP or the doctor who made your referral.

Further information

Useful websites:

www.bnms.org.uk

www.radiologyinfo.org

www.patient.co.uk

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਸਿ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਧਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk