



Lymphoscintigraphy

PATIENT INFORMATION

What is a Lymphoscintigraphy Scan?

A lymphoscintigraphy scan is a nuclear medicine test that maps the lymphatic system by tracking the flow of a radioactive tracer injected near the affected area. It helps identify blockages, lymph node function, or sentinel lymph nodes in conditions like lymphedema or cancer staging.

What will happen during the examination?

A small amount of radioactive tracer is injected just under the skin near the area of interest, such as an arm, leg, or tumor site. The tracer will gradually move through the lymphatic system.

A gamma camera takes images at different time intervals to track the movement of the tracer through the lymphatic vessels and into the lymph nodes. Additional images may be taken after a few hours if the lymphatic flow is slow.

The scan usually takes a few hours, depending on how quickly the tracer moves through the lymphatic system. Imaging may continue on and off throughout the day. Depending on the type of images we need it may be an hour-long scan or in 2 parts that are 1 hour each in length. In between pictures, you will be able to leave the department if required. You may also eat and drink during the course of the day without interfering with the study. Please bring a book or activity to do in the waiting room if you plan to stay in the department between scans.

Pregnant and/or breastfeeding

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers should contact our department before their appointment to discuss any specific preparation. You will need to express and discard milk but can resume feeding after your appointment.

After the examination

Our radiologist will review and report on your images and we will deliver them electronically to your doctor.



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