

SENTINEL NODE INJECTIONS WITHOUT IMAGING
UPDATED: MAY 2016

CPT CODE: 38792

Indications:

This procedure is for patients who will be given intradermal or subdermal injections only, and can be done outside the Nuclear Medicine Division, usually in the Operating Room. This is for patients who will NOT have imaging as part of this procedure. These are for patients with breast cancer and the injection is part of the sentinel lymph node identification.

Patient Prep:

No patient prep is required for this procedure. When the injection is performed in the OR, the patient will be under anesthesia. Also, for the breast injection performed in Nuclear medicine, a bag of ice is placed over the injection site for 90 seconds prior to the injection.

Scheduling:

This exam is scheduled only if ordered as **Injection Only**, typically in the OR only and on days where yesterday was not a business day. If **Injection Only** is not requested, then schedule as Sentinel Node Imaging, which is our default procedure.

Scheduler needs to ask if the Sentinel Node injection is to be performed in the O.R. (typical) or in Nuclear Medicine. An in-basket message is sent for all injection only procedures to insure proper communication with the Nuclear Medicine MDs and due to manual scheduling will be required.

- If in the O.R.: Total time is 60 minutes on the MD schedule and one of the following NM resources - Inject General, B, E, A, or D. Typically scheduled at 730AM.
- If in Nuclear Medicine: Total time is 30 minutes on the MD schedule and on one of the following NM resources - B, E, A, or D. Typically scheduled at 730AM.

If the requested appointment time is any other time, an In-Box message needs to be sent to gain faculty approval and notification.

**Radiopharmaceutical
& Dose:**

Tc-99m sulfur colloid suspension (filtered) with a particle size ≤ 220 nm (small particle size prepared by passing through a 220 nanometer Millipore filter.

Melanoma (injected in OR or in NM) or Breast (injected in NM): 0.5 mCi (+/- 20%) Tc-99m sulfur colloid (filtered) per syringe. Dose is not weight adjusted.

Breast (injected in the OR): 1.0 mCi (+/- 20%) qs to 4 ml Tc-99m sulfur colloid (filtered), single injection. Dose is not weight adjusted.

Procedure/Injection:

The patient will have the skin area cleansed by the person doing the injection.

Breast (injected in the OR)

Standard injection technique: Single subareolar injection, with adjustments as needed in case of scar or sutures.

- If there is a previous incision there or if there is concern for the radiotracer to get blocked, then the surgeon can specify on the order set a different preferred injection location. A comment box is available.

Breast (injected in NM)

Standard injection technique: Single intradermal periareolar injection (Left breast 2 o'clock or Right breast 10 o'clock positions), with adjustments as needed in case of scar or sutures.

- If there is a previous incision there or if there is concern for the radiotracer to get blocked, then the surgeon can specify on the order set a different preferred injection location. A comment box will be available.

Melanoma (injected in OR or in NM)

Inject tracer intradermally around the tumor or excision site. Four (4) injection sites are used. It is important to be as close as possible (within 5 mm) to the tumor excision scar site without injecting scar tissue.

Imaging Device: There is no imaging associated with this procedure. The sentinel lymph node(s) will be identified using the probe by the surgeon.

Data Analysis: None needed.

Radiation Survey: If the injection is performed in the O.R., then the O.R. room must be surveyed for radiation contamination AFTER the case is complete and the patient is removed from the room. The O.R. will call Nuclear Medicine at 225-6094 when the room is ready to be surveyed. NO CLEANING will take place until someone from Nuclear Medicine or designate has surveyed the room and collected all contaminated items.

Interpretation: Interpretation is performed by the surgeon using the probe to identify the sentinel lymph nodes.

PACS: Send scanned request with dose information to PACS.

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