

Thank you for choosing Yale New Haven Hospital

We are looking forward to providing you with exceptional care.

Lymphoscintigraphy is a special type of nuclear medicine imaging that provides special pictures of the lymphatic system, which transports fluid throughout your immune system. Lymphoscintigraphy is often used to identify the sentinel lymph node, or the first node to receive the lymph drainage from a tumor. It can also help plan for a biopsy or surgery that will help assess the stage of cancer. Lymphoscintigraphy is also helpful in identifying points of blockage in the lymphatic system, such as lymph flow in an arm or leg, or lymphedema.

Yale New Haven Hospital Preparation for this Exam:

Before Arriving for Your Exam

- Please arrive **15 minutes** early to check in.
- Children accompanying patients during visits:
 - Unfortunately, we cannot routinely supervise your children during your imaging study. We believe that you are best served when we can provide 100% of our attention to you. Therefore, we encourage you to make childcare arrangements or to bring a responsible adult with you to supervise your children.
- There are no restrictions in your diet required prior to this test.
- Wear loose comfortable clothing, since you will need to lie still for a period of time.
- We want to make your waiting time as pleasant as possible. Consider bringing your favorite magazine, book or music player to help you pass the time.
- Please leave your jewelry and valuables at home.

After Arriving

- Upon arrival, a technologist will explain your procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- **ATTENTION Females (ages 10 to 55)**
To ensure Radiation Safety, the following is YNHH Policy on pregnancy test for this Radiology exam.
 - **PARENTS:** A pregnancy test is required on all females (ages 10 to 17) prior to the start of the exam.
 - Females (ages 18 to 55) may either sign a waiver stating that there is no chance that you could currently be pregnant, or have the choice to take a pregnancy test prior to the exam

During Your Exam

- You will receive 2 to 4 injections of a tracer dose of radioactive material near the tumor site, just below the skin's surface. These injections will sting while being administered, but goes away quickly after being administered. The level of radioactivity is extremely low and has no side effects.
- During your scan, you will be required to lie flat on your back.
- There is often a need to gently massage the injection site to start the flow of the tracer.
- Pictures of your body will be obtained using a special nuclear medicine camera. The camera detects and records the distribution of the radioactive tracer which was injected.

Exam Duration

- Depending on your lymphatic flow, this procedure can take anywhere from 30 min to 2 1/2 hours.

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After Your Exam

- There are no restrictions placed upon you. You may eat or drive as normal, although if you took relaxation medication, you will need someone to drive you home
- Your exam will be interpreted by a Radiologist (a doctor who is an expert in understanding these exams). A report will be sent to your provider, who can review the results with you.

*For more general information on what to expect during your upcoming radiology exam.

Visit this link to **Nuclear Medicine Lymphoscintigraphy** at RadiologyInfo.org

RadiologyInfo.org is the public information resource developed by health care professionals in collaboration with patients. It was established to inform and educate the public about how various x-ray, CT, MRI, ultrasound, radiation therapy and other procedures/exams are performed and what you may experience during your procedure.

RadiologyInfo.org is sponsored by the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and the American College of Radiology (ACR).