



Procedure Information Sheet

Introduction

Sentinel lymph node is defined as the first drainage axillary lymph node that drains the area of breast cancer. If the breast cancer cells have already invaded the lymphatic system, the Sentinel lymph node is more likely than others to contain cancer cell.

The Sentinel lymph node is identified by radio-active isotopes injection and / or blue dye injection into the breast before operation and excises for frozen section during operation.

There is no need to risk the long term complications and side effects from an axillary dissection such as Lymphedema or numbness over the armpit.

Indication

Breast Cancer.

The Operation / Procedure

1. These procedure is proceeding with Breast Conserving Surgery and Simple Mastectomy at the same time.
2. Sentinel lymph nodes can be identified preoperatively by lymphoscintigraphy, which involves the use of radioactive injection in the Nuclear Medicine Department and / or identified intraoperative using the blue dye injects by surgeon.
3. During the operation, the Sentinel lymph node can be identified by radioactive navigator and / or blue stain of the axillary lymph node and removed then send for frozen section.
4. If the frozen section preliminary report shows there is no tumour cells involvement, the surgeon removed Sentinel lymph node only. Otherwise, the surgeon will proceed to axillary dissection.
5. 5% opportunity for second operation to complete the axillary dissection for the cases in which the false negative show in frozen section, yet the final pathology confirms the presence of tumour cells.

Before the Operation / Procedure

1. Skin preparation for shampooing and bathing before operation.
2. The radioactive injection is given before operation in the Nuclear Medicine Department and confirmed by X-Ray. The procedure takes approximately 1 to 2 hours. The blue dye injection is given in Operation Theater after under anesthesia.

After the Operation / Procedure

Same as Mastectomy or Breast Conserving Surgery.

Risk and Complication

1. The blue dye will stain into your skin of breast for several months.
2. Greenish color urine may be passed several days after operation.
3. Most of the radioactive substance stains in the Sentinel lymph node and removes during operation so that remain substance is harmless.
4. Allergic reaction of blue dye.

Alternative Treatment / Investigation

Axillary Lymph Node Dissection/ Clearance.

<p>Patient's Label Patient Name: _____ Hospital No: _____ Episode No: _____</p>
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Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

Reference

1. Smart Patient Website by Hospital Authority: Sentinel Lymph Node Dissection (2017)
2. Specialty Advisory Group (Breast) by Hospital Authority: Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (2017)

<p>Patient's Label Patient Name: _____ Hospital No: _____ Episode No: _____</p>

Patient's Signature: _____ Date: _____