

## Having an ultrasound localisation procedure

You have been referred to the clinical team because an abnormal area has been identified that needs to be removed. This area can be seen on imaging but cannot be easily felt by the surgeon. This leaflet explains, how to prepare, what happens on the day, and what to expect afterwards. This leaflet will help you understand what a localisation procedure involves, why it is necessary and what to expect.

Localisation is used to accurately mark the area so that it can be removed safely during surgery.

The main type of localisation used in general ultrasound is a seed localisation (magnetic/radiofrequency). This will be discussed with you.

### What is localisation procedure?

A localisation procedure uses imaging (ultrasound) to guide the placement of a marker into the affected part. This marker helps the surgeon find the correct area during your surgery. The marker is a small seed.

In some cases, an additional magnetic sentinel node injection may be requested by your surgeon, this is to further assess uptake in the lymph nodes, providing a clear guidance during surgery.

### Is there any preparation?

There is no special preparation required. You can eat and drink as normal.

Please bring a list of your current medications and take your regular medicines as usual.

Tell us if you have any allergies and inform us if you are taking any medication that thins the blood (for example warfarin, apixaban, aspirin or clopidogrel), as this may need to be reviewed in advance.

### When will the procedure take place?

Seed localisation is usually carried out days or weeks before your surgery.

The procedure takes place in the radiology department using ultrasound imaging.

### What happens when I come for the procedure?

You will be welcomed by the radiology staff, who will explain the procedure fully and answer any questions you may have.

You will be asked to remove clothing and change into a hospital gown. The room lights may be dimmed to make the images easier to see. A member of staff will always be with you.



### How is the localisation done?

This is performed using an ultrasound scanner.

You will be asked to lie on a couch. The radiologist or specialist radiographer will locate the abnormal area using ultrasound images.

Local anaesthetic will be given to numb the area.

Once in position:

- A needle is guided into the abnormal tissue using ultrasound.
- A seed is placed.
- The needle is removed, leaving the seed in the correct position.

### Will it hurt?

The local anaesthetic helps to minimise discomfort. You may feel pressure during the procedure, but it should not be painful. Please tell the staff straight away if you feel pain or discomfort.

### How long will it take?

The procedure usually takes between 30 and 45 minutes.

### What happens after the procedure?

Pressure will be applied to the area for a few minutes to reduce bleeding and bruising. A dressing may be applied. This should be kept dry and left in place for three days unless advised otherwise.

The seed will be removed during your surgery, such as a wide local excision (lumpectomy).

You can usually return to normal activities straight away.

### Are there any risks or side effects?

Most people experience few problems. Possible side effects include:

- **Bruising** – common and may make the area feel lumpy for a short time.
- **Aching or tenderness** – usually relieved with paracetamol. Wearing a supportive, non-wired bra for a couple of days may help.
- **Bleeding** – very rarely a wound might begin to bleed a little after you have left the hospital. You should apply direct pressure to the wound for twenty minutes. The wound should then stop bleeding. If for any reason the wound continues to bleed, you need to contact the Royal Marsden hotline (details below) and/or attend your nearest A&E.



### **Where can I get further information?**

The staff in the Radiology department will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please ask at the time of your appointment or telephone the department at any time

**Sutton:** 020 8661 3589 / 3588

**Chelsea:** 020 7811 8366

**Cavendish Square:** 020 7811 8941

If you feel unwell or have concerns about your health, please contact:

**The Royal Marsden Hotline** 020 8915 6899

You can ring the hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us straight away if you are feeling unwell or are worried about the side effects of cancer treatments. This service provides specialist advice and support to all Royal Marsden patients, as well as to their carers, and both hospital and community-based doctors and nurses caring for Royal Marsden patients.

