

# Sentinel lymph node biopsy with Magtrace®



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(adapted from Endomag patient information)

## Why have I been recommended for a sentinel lymph node biopsy?

When you have surgery to remove a suspicious lump, it is important for your surgeon to know whether cancer cells have spread to other parts of the body. This allows them to determine the 'stage' of the disease.

The simplest way to establish this is by analysing your body's lymph nodes. If cancer cells travel from their original site they will travel throughout the lymphatic channels that run to your underarm. Here they will collect in the first lymph nodes they reach – known as the 'sentinel lymph nodes'.

## Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (SLNB)

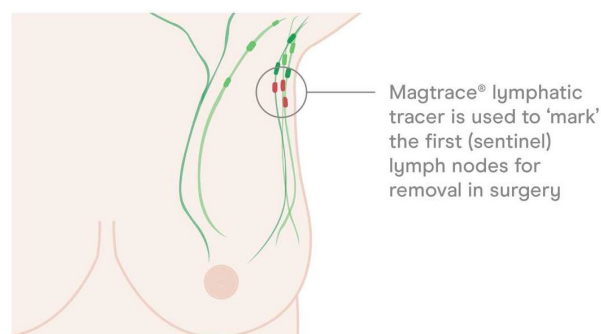
A Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (SLNB), is a cancer staging procedure which is carried out at the same time as the removal of the suspicious lump in your breast.

It involves identifying and then surgically removing a small selection of sentinel lymph nodes, before analysing them to determine whether the cancer has spread.

## How surgeons use Magtrace®

To help identify the sentinel nodes, the Magtrace® lymphatic tracer will be injected into your breast. This magnetically detectable 'tracer' liquid will follow the route that a migrating cancer would take before collecting in the sentinel nodes in your underarm.

Once the tracer has migrated to your sentinel nodes, your surgeon will then be able to identify the location of these nodes by using a magnetic probe which can detect even minute quantities of the trace liquid (by sound) and by visualising the liquid in the lymph node (stains brown).



<https://www.endomag.com/patients/patient-guide-to-the-magtrace-lymphatic-tracer/>

## The Magtrace® procedure

- 1. Injection before surgery:** The Magtrace® will be administered before your surgery at a pre surgical visit to the hospital. The clinician will then use a small needle to inject the liquid into your breast (usually behind your nipple).
- 2. After the injection:** Shortly after the injection the Magtrace® liquid will flow through your lymphatic system, taking the route a migrating cancer cell would take, before collecting in the sentinel nodes in your underarm (only the sentinel lymph nodes will be marked).

In a small number of patients, discolouration of the skin at the injection site can occur (a brown colour). This should fade over time.

- 3. The surgery:** During the procedure, your surgeon will use a Sentimag® probe to locate the Magtrace® in your sentinel lymph nodes. Once found your surgeon will usually remove two or three nodes for analysis.

In a small number of patients, if no signal is located then a blue dye will be injected which stains the sentinel lymph node visibly blue. This dye will be injected whilst you are asleep during the surgery. The injection will stain your skin blue at the injection site, this should fade over time. There is also

small risk of allergy/hypersensitivity to the blue dye (1:40). Your surgeon will ask for your consent for this procedure at the same time as the Magtrace®.

A pathologist will examine the specimens to confirm if any cancer cells are present in the lymph nodes and help determine if the cancer has begun to spread.

This process can take some time, so if you do not hear back straight after the surgery do not worry.

## What will the results from the analysis tell me?

The analysis will determine if cancer cells are present in your lymph nodes and how much is in each one.

This will help to accurately stage your cancer and help determine your best course of treatment, which may include additional therapy, such as further surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

## Further information

Please visit <https://www.endomag.com/en-gb/patients/> for further information.

### Your Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible - talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve it, then ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care.

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We work positively with others to achieve shared aims

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We act with professionalism and integrity, delivering what we commit to, embedding learning when things do not go to plan

#### **Respect**

We are anti-discriminatory, treating people fairly and creating a sense of belonging and pride

#### **Empowerment**

We speak out when things don't feel right, we are innovative and make changes to support continuous improvement

#### **Support**

We are compassionate, listen attentively and are kind to ourselves and each other



The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

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