

## SENTINEL LYMPH NODE BIOPSY

**Fatih Agalar, MD, FACS, FEBS (hon)**

**Professor of Surgery**

**Member, European Society of Breast Specialist**

**Member, European Society of Surgical Oncology**



## What is sentinel lymph node biopsy?

A sentinel lymph node is the first lymph node(s) to which cancer cells are most likely to spread from a primary tumor.

A sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) can be used to help determine the extent, or stage, of cancer in the body.

Because SLNBs involve less extensive surgery and the removal of fewer lymph nodes than standard lymph node surgery, the potential for adverse effects, or harms, is lower.

A sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) is a procedure in which the sentinel lymph node is identified, removed, and examined to determine whether cancer cells are present. A negative SLNB result suggests that cancer has not developed the ability to spread to nearby lymph nodes or other organs. A positive SLNB result indicates that cancer is present in the sentinel lymph node and may be present in other nearby lymph nodes (called regional lymph nodes and probably other organs).

This information helps doctors to determine the stage of the disease. Sentinel node biopsy involves injecting a tracer material that helps the surgeon locate the sentinel nodes during surgery. The sentinel nodes are removed and analyzed in a laboratory. If the sentinel nodes are free of cancer, then cancer isn't likely to have spread and removing additional lymph nodes is unnecessary.

If, after sentinel node biopsy, evaluation of the sentinel nodes reveals cancer, then there is a need to additional lymph nodes removed to determine how far the cancer has spread.

## Sentinel node biopsy

## Gamma probe

