

## Radioisotope localisation

### Who is this leaflet for?

Your surgical consultant would like you to have a radioisotope localisation injection prior to your surgery. This leaflet aims to answer any questions you may have.

### What is a radioisotope localisation?

The procedure involves a small injection into the area of concern. The injection will contain a small volume of mildly radioactive fluid. To ensure the injection is placed accurately, the radiologist or specialist practitioner will use either ultrasound or mammographic imaging to guide it. For this reason you will be asked to attend the Mermaid Centre on the day or the day before your surgery to have the localisation injection.

This is performed as part of your surgical procedure so it is essential that you ring us if you are unable to attend. Failure to do so may mean that your surgery is delayed.

### Do I need to prepare for the scan?

No, but as this injection may be given on the day of your surgery please see your admission details regarding food and drink restrictions.

### Are there any risks from the injection?

No, we will ensure that the amount of radiation you receive is as small as possible. It is similar to the natural radiation dose you would receive from living in Cornwall for four days. If there is a chance that you may be pregnant please contact the department before your appointment date. If you are a woman of childbearing age we will ask you to confirm that you are not pregnant.

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## **Can I bring someone with me to the department?**

Yes, however please do not bring pregnant women or young children.

## **Are there any side effects?**

No, occasionally patients report a slight warm or stinging sensation as the fluid is injected, which soon eases off. The radioactivity is eliminated from your body over the next 24 hours with the majority of it removed during the surgery.

## **Should I take any precautions afterwards?**

Yes – please avoid non-essential close contact with young children or pregnant woman until you have had your surgery.

## **Any questions?**

Please do not hesitate to contact the Mermaid Centre if you require any further information.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690