What is a Lymphatic Melanoma Mapping Scan?
This is a test done to look at the lymph nodes that might be involved with a particular skin cancer called melanoma. It is done to help the surgeon locate the first lymph node (Sentinel node) during surgery. During surgery, the lymph nodes surrounding the cancer are usually removed and checked for possible spread of cancer.

Before your scan
☐ There is no special preparation for this procedure.

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. Please register at the St. Joseph Hospital Outpatient Pavilion on the first floor.

During your scan
Once you are registered and checked in at the Nuclear Medicine desk, a technician will come out to greet you and bring you into the department. The technician will explain your test and answer any questions you might have.

Once you are ready to begin, the Radiologist will enter the imaging room and perform a series of injections around the area of the skin cancer. The doctor injects a special imaging tracer that does not cause any side effects. There are usually 4-8 injections performed using a very small needle.

After the injections, the technician will use a special imaging camera and take pictures of where the tracer is flowing in your body. If lymph nodes begin to show on the images, the technician will use a special marker and place a marking on your skin where the closest node is seen to the injection site. The surgeon then uses this marking as a reference point to where the sentinel node is located.

The scan and marking takes about 1-2 hours to complete.

After the Scan
If you are having surgery on the day of your mapping scan, the technician will bring you either to the main waiting area after your scan or directly into the pre-surgery department. The images and results of your scan will go directly to the surgeon before your surgery.

Thank you
We are honored that you have selected St. Joseph Hospital to serve your healthcare needs.