

**SALEM HOSPITAL  
SALEM, OREGON 97309**

Department: Regional Laboratory	<b>TITLE: SENTINEL LYMPH NODE PROTOCOL-SURGICAL SERVICES</b>
Area: Anatomic Pathology	Effective Date: August 1, 2003
Authored By: Clark E. McDonald, MD	Revised: 04/23/04
Policy #: AP-022	
Attachments:	Date removed from service:

**PRINCIPLE or PURPOSE:** To describe the handling of lymph nodes intended for immediate evaluation during a surgical procedure in which a surgical procedural decision will be made based on the results of the evaluation.

This protocol is generally accepted and routinely implemented in cases of breast cancer in which a lumpectomy is being performed and the procedural decision is whether or not to perform a formal axillary dissection.

\* This protocol does not apply to diagnostic lymph node biopsies in which a lymphoma or an infectious process is suspected. In these cases, the standard **LYMPH NODE PROTOCOL** is to be implemented.

**MATERIALS, REAGENTS:**

1. Sterile specimen container
2. Gauze moistened with sterile saline solution
3. Pathology requisition form

**PROCEDURE:**

1. A Pathology Requisition form is filled out with the patient's demographic information, OR call back phone number, clinical history and marked "Sentinel Lymph Node #1".
2. The lymph node is collected and wrapped in gauze moistened with sterile saline solution ( the lymph node should not be floating in saline)
3. The lymph node is sent to the laboratory with the requisition slip **STAT**.
4. Subsequent sentinel nodes collected are sequentially labeled and sent as above.
5. If a subsequent axillary dissection is performed, this specimen should be labeled "Axillary Contents (right or left as appropriate) and not "Sentinel Lymph Nodes".

**PROCEDURE NOTES:**

Cases in which sentinel lymph nodes will need to be examined at the time of a surgical procedure should be scheduled ahead of time with the Salem Hospital pathology department and a one hour notice given prior to the procedure.

**DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURE:**

Salem Hospital Departments  
 Willamette Valley Medical Center Department of Surgery  
 Silverton Hospital Department of Surgery  
 Santiam Hospital Department of Surgery  
 McMinnville Surgery Clinic  
 North Bank Surgical  
 River Road Surgical Center  
 Willamette Ear, Nose and Throat  
 Willamette Surgery Center

<b>PROCEDURE ACCEPTANCE AND REVIEW</b>	
<b>SECTION SUPERVISOR:</b> signed copy on file	<b>DATE:</b> 4/2004
<b>AP MEDICAL DIRECTOR:</b> signed copy on file	<b>DATE:</b> 4/2004
<b>ADMIN. DIRECTOR:</b> signed copy on file	<b>DATE:</b> 4/2004
<b>Reviewed Annually By:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
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