

Radioactive Seed Localization (RSL I-125)

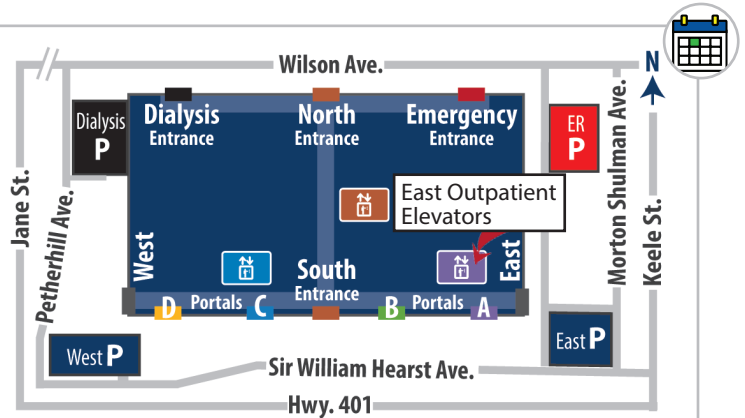
Your doctor has scheduled you for a **radioactive seed localization (RSL I-125)**. Please read this handout for information on how to prepare for your procedure.

If you might be changing the date of your surgery, speak with any staff before your localization procedure.



Location: Medical Imaging (Breast Health Centre)
Level 2, Humber River Health, 1235 Wilson Ave., Toronto ON M3M 0B2

Enter via Portal A or the East Entrance. Take the East Outpatient Elevators to Level 2. Follow the signs to Medical Imaging Registration.



What is a radioactive seed localization?

Radioactive seed localization (RSL I-125 or localization) is a procedure that prepares a patient for breast lumpectomy (surgery).

The localization procedure is done 1 to 2 weeks before the scheduled surgery, in the Breast Health Centre. During the procedure, the radiologist will insert a small radioactive “seed”, the size of a grain, into the breast tumour. We will use ultrasound or mammography to place the seed.

During your surgery, the radiation from this seed will help the surgeon identify and find the concerning breast tissue. The surgeon will then remove both the breast tissue and the seed.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

Tell your doctor if you:

1. Are currently taking any medicines, including prescription or over-the-counter medicines, herbals and supplements, or blood thinners. Your doctor will let you know which medicines, if any, to stop taking before your procedure.

2. Are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are breast feeding.
 - If you are pregnant or breast feeding, you and your doctor will discuss the safety issues of having the procedure at this time.
3. Have any allergies. It is important to share if you are allergic to any type of medicine. If you do have known allergies, we suggest you wear your MedicAlert® bracelet on the day of your visit.

On the day of your radioactive seed localization procedure:

- Take your medicines as your doctor advised.
- Do not apply talcum powder or lotion under your arms or on your breasts. These appear on the images and sometimes mimic the look of concerning breast tissue.
- If you need support, you may have someone with you before the procedure.

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Bring to the hospital:



- Your health card (OHIP) and a photo ID.
- All the medicines you are currently taking, including over-the-counter medicines, herbals and supplements, in their original containers.

Do not bring jewelry or other valuables.

What can I expect during the procedure?

Before the procedure:

- We may ask you to remove all your clothes and change into a hospital gown.
- Please remove any jewelry, dental appliances, eyeglasses, hair clips or metal objects you are wearing that may interfere with the images.

During the procedure:

- We will bring you to the ultrasound or mammogram room for the procedure.
- The radiologist will numb the area with freezing and then insert the seed into the breast tumour using a needle.
- Once we place the seed, we will remove the needle and take you to mammography, where we will take pictures to check the location of the seed.

At the end of the procedure:

- We will then cover the site we inserted the needle with a sterile tape and bandage.
- The procedure will take about 60 minutes.

What can I expect after the procedure?

- The breast may be a bit sore.
- You will be able to go home soon after the procedure.

What are the risks of this procedure?

During the time we insert the seed into the breast tumour, you will be exposed to a very small amount of radiation. The amount of radiation is

less than the exposure from most X-ray studies. You cannot feel the seed or the radiation. For more information about radiation, visit www.radiationanswers.org.

How do I care for myself at home?

Care Instructions:

- We will provide you with instructions on how to care for yourself and what symptoms you should look out for that require immediate attention.
- To reduce redness and pain, apply an ice pack to the site for 20 minutes. Do not apply the ice pack directly on the skin. Place a cloth between the ice pack and your skin.
- Do not get the breast wet for 48 hours after the procedure. Do not shower, bathe, or swim.
- Do not lift heavy objects or exercise for 24 hours after the procedure.

Follow up Instructions:

The surgeon will remove the seed and tumour at the same time, during your upcoming breast surgery. However, in the very unlikely event your surgery is cancelled and cannot be rescheduled, the seed must be removed from your breast. Your surgeon will arrange this appointment.

Call your surgeon if:



- You feel different or worse than you did before your RSL I-125, including extreme discomfort in your breast.
- You choose to delay the breast surgery after you have had the localization procedure.
You must inform the surgeon ahead of the scheduled surgery as we will need to remove the seed from your body.