**Purpose**

Sentinel lymph node biopsy is a diagnostic procedure used to determine whether breast cancer has metastasized to axillary lymph nodes. A sentinel lymph node biopsy requires the removal of only one to three lymph nodes. If the sentinel nodes do not contain cancer cells, this may eliminate the need to remove additional lymph nodes in the axillary area.

**Procedure**

* Grossly separate out each node leaving a minimal amount of attached adipose tissue. Lymph nodes can be "matted" so do your best to separate them and give a count.
* Describe dimensions, color (may be blue if dye is used) and capsule.
* Ink each node a different color if they are to be submitted in the same cassette**. Serially section each node thinly across the long axis (do not bivalve the node) at 0.2-0.3 cm intervals.**

**Sections for Histology:**

* Submit all possible lymph node(s) and be sure to describe how many are in each cassette.

**Sample Dictation**

Labeled "Sentinel lymph node #1, location: Right Axilla, Count: 2731, Blue: Yes" received in formalin in a small container is a 1.0 x 1.0 x 0.5 cm blue-dyed lymph node with a minimal amount of attached adipose tissue. Serial sectioning reveals grossly unremarkable cut surfaces.

**Cassette Summary**

* A1. One lymph node serially section (4ns)