

BAHNO Accredited Short Fellowship Sentinel Lymph node biopsy in Head & Neck

Main supervisor: Ms Clare Schilling (clare.schilling@nhs.net)

Additional supervisors: Dr Simon Wan, Prof M McGurk, Mr A Sahovaler, Dr S Thavaraj

Location: UCLH, London

Additional locations: Royal London Hospital, Guys Hospital, London

Purpose:

Support personal development in providing SNB service for oral cancer patients.

Suitable Applicants:

- UK-based and fully subscribed BAHNO members or associate members
- Head and Neck Consultants or Specialist Trainees (OMFS/Plastic/ENT)
- Head and Neck Pathology Consultants or Specialist Trainees
- Nuclear Medicine physicians/Head and Neck Radiologists
- Clinical Nurse Specialists in centres offering SNB
- Speech and Language Therapists in centres offering SNB

Objectives:

To understand -

- Requirements for setting up an SNB service (clinical personnel, equipment)
- Overview of licences required for setting up SNB service
- Patient selection for SNB in oral cancer
- Counselling and consenting patients
- Technique of SNB (lymphatic mapping, surgery, pathology)
- SNB patient follow up
- Managing complications
- Data collection and service evaluation

The program can be tailored to the specific requirements of the candidate.

Overview:

UCLH has a well-established SNB program with alternate week linked nuclear medicine and operating slots on a two-day protocol. Our workflow encompasses joint nuclear medicine and surgical review of lymphatic imaging prior to surgical excision using both radiotracer and optical fluorescence imaging. Sentinel nodes are processed at Guys Hospital and if a positive result is generated completion neck dissection occurs within 3 weeks of the original surgery. We undertake 30-35 cases per year, during the fellowship a minimum of two cases will be observed at UCLH. Depending on the candidate requirements there is option to attend general H&N theatres, pre-operative assessment clinics including SLT and dietetics, and attend other theatres where SNB is undertaken e.g. urology.

This fellowship will combine theoretical learning delivered as a 1:1 lecture program based on the national SNB training program, Headstart.

Clinical exposure would be provided through Head and Neck MDT, Head and Neck clinics (both pre- and post-operative patients), observation of radiotracer injection and scanning in nuclear medicine department, and cases in theatres.

Sample timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday
AM	Welcome Orientation & access badges	Visit pathology lab at Guys Hospital	Head and Neck MDT	(Option to attend H&N theatres)	Pre-op review of LSG & SPECT/CT images SNB case in theatre
PM	Lecture program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trials and evidence for SNB in OSCC • Steps in setting up program • Patient Journey • Practical aspects of SN imaging • Practical aspects of surgery • Pathologic evaluation of the SN • Safe working practices • Gamma probe use • Injection technique 	(Option to attend H&N theatres)	Head and Neck Clinic (Royal London Hospital)	Nuclear medicine dept UCLH Observe injection of radiotracer Observe lymphoscintigraphy and SPECT/CT	(Option to attend SNB cases in urology theatres)

Following this fellowship, the candidate will have a throughout grounding in the theory and practice of SNB in OSCC. In accordance with international consensus surgeons should perform 10 supervised SNB cases or alongside neck dissection prior to performing this technique as a stand-alone procedure. A validated anonymised logbook of cases can be submitted to the Head and Neck Cancer Foundation for a certificate of completion of training in SNB.

Following the fellowship, trainees must provide a report giving an overview of their visit and what they have learnt. This will be posted on the BAHNO website.

We will provide ongoing mentorship to candidates to support their SNB practice and development and candidates are welcome to visit for additional cases after the short fellowship although funding will not be provided by BAHNO for this.

BAHNO is committed to supporting equality, diversity and Inclusion. Applications are encouraged as reflect the broad community of BAHNO membership and any adjustments to the fellowship required for the candidate will be accommodated.