Breast Cancer – Small Tumor Removal
Radioactive Seed Localization

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Radioactive Seed Localization (RSL)

- Summa is the first and only health system in Northeast Ohio that offers Radioactive Seed Localization (RSL).
- Summa breast specialists, radiologists and surgeons, have been working with RSL since May, 2015.
- Breast surgeons can more accurately pinpoint small tumors and remove them less invasively through RSL.
Radioactive Seed Localization (RSL)

- It Starts With a Seed

- To help a surgeon locate a tumor during surgery, a breast radiologist places a titanium seed (about the size of a grain of rice) with radioactive iodine inside a patient’s non-palpable (not felt on exam) breast tumor. This is done via a hollow needle guided by mammography or ultrasound.

- The seed can be placed inside the breast up-to five days before surgery.
Radioactive Seed Localization (RSL)

RSL allows radiologists like Dr. Jennifer Pavlo to mark and view the exact location of small breast tumors after she places a titanium seed (the size of a grain of rice) into the tumor.
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When the Neoprobe, a Geiger counter like device, is placed over the patient’s breast during surgery, an audible sound and numerical value signals the surgeon to the exact location of the seed and tumor. This allows more accurate incision placement and tumor removal.