Breast cancer and melanoma are similar in that both are surgically treated for cure by wide resection of skin and soft tissue. The most striking similarity between these two cancers, however, is their propensity to metastasize to regional lymph nodes. It is extremely rare for these cancers to spread systemically without first passing through the first draining lymph node basin.

Clinical Trials Involving SLN Mapping for Melanoma
Four major prospective, randomized clinical trials are evaluating lymphatic mapping and SLNB for melanoma. The first two are the Multicenter Selective Lymphadenectomy Trial-I (MSLT-I) and the MSLT-II. The MSLT-I randomized patients with intermediate thickness melanoma to receive wide-excision and observation or wide-excision plus SLNB. 
