



# Minimally Invasive Node Detection

Making the switch to the TruNode® single-use gamma probe system

Michael Stuntz, MD, has been performing sentinel lymph node biopsies for more than 25 years. He made the switch to the TruNode® single-use gamma probe system nearly a decade ago and recommends the device for its reliability, disposability, and patient benefits.



**Dr. Michael Stuntz**  
General Surgeon  
Monterey, CA

## Making the Switch

After years of using blue dye and radioactive trackers to perform outpatient sentinel lymph node biopsies, general surgeon Dr. Michael Stuntz made the switch to a gamma detection system. While the new device made it easier to locate lymph nodes, its reusability resulted in a significant cost burden from equipment damage and lost probes over the years.

To address these concerns, Dr. Stuntz turned to the TruNode system — a sterile, single-use wireless gamma probe designed to facilitate common radio-guided surgical procedures, including sentinel lymph node biopsy.

“The disposable aspect of the TruNode probe became very useful for us because we were throwing away a lot of our prior reusable probes, which were expensive,” said Dr. Stuntz.

## Impacting the Patient Experience

For Dr. Stuntz, the benefits of using a sterile, single-use probe also include reducing the risk of cross-contamination and surgical site infections. “You add a risk of contamination if you have to drape the probe because it isn’t an easy process. Any surgeon will attest to this. Whereas opening a TruNode probe is as simple as opening any other sterile instrument. It’s very unlikely to get contaminated.”

Featuring a small probe tip with a 10mm operative diameter, the TruNode system allows Dr. Stuntz to perform his procedures with the patient’s experience in mind.

“Compared to alternatives that I’ve tried, you can use a smaller incision and you can see better because of the slim nature of the end of the TruNode probe and the fact that it’s not covered in a drape.” said Dr. Stuntz.

“It’s an easy device to use. Turning it on and off is probably the hardest thing.”

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He also points to the reliability of the TruNode system as an important factor impacting his experience.

#### Ease of Use and Adoption

Featuring an ergonomic design, the TruNode system gives clear visual and audible feedback to enhance the user experience. According to Dr. Stuntz, “It’s an easy device to use. Turning it on and off is probably the hardest thing.”



This ease of adoption partly influenced how quickly and easily Dr. Stuntz got his colleagues on board with using the new system. “My colleagues immediately made the switch once they tried the TruNode system a few times. I think everybody saw that this is a better way to perform a sentinel node biopsy, and now it’s pretty much the standard in my region.”

For surgeons considering adopting the TruNode system themselves, Dr. Stuntz gives this advice, “Give it a try, because you’re probably going to like it. There’s nothing out there that I think is as good as this, as reliable as this or as easy to use as this. I don’t see any strong negatives, and I’ve been using it for going on 10 years.”



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Important Safety Information: The TruNode® Gamma Probe system is intended to detect and quantify relative amounts of gamma radiation from Tc-99m and I-125 radionuclides in the body or tissues. The TruNode Gamma Probe System is not intended for use in the central nervous system. For detailed benefit and risk information, please consult the IFU.