

PROSTATE BIOPSY

PREPARATION

There is no preparation for this test.

PROCEDURE

A prostate biopsy is a procedure to remove samples of suspicious tissue from the prostate.

Transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) examination involves passing a narrow probe through the anus into the rectum. Prostate Ultrasound imaging allows the examiner to measure the prostate size and assess its texture. Biopsies (tissue samples) are obtained using a spring-loaded device that passes a thin needle into the prostate through the lining of the rectum. Although you will be aware of the biopsy procedure, there is rarely and significant pain. Normally, multiple biopsies are obtained from different locations within the prostate.

The tissue removed at biopsy is preserved and will be examined under a microscope to determine if prostate cancer is present. This report should be available within a few weeks.

The risk of bleeding is increased in patients taking blood thinners, anti-inflammatory medications and many herbal supplements. These drugs should be stopped prior to the procedure. **Do not stop any medications without consulting your physician.** The doctor may recommend that you avoid aspirin or anti-inflammatory drugs for one week prior to your biopsy procedure. If you are taking the blood thinners such as warfarin (Coumadin) or clopidogrel (Plavix), you must ask your urologist for specific instructions.

Antibiotic drugs have been prescribed for you to prevent infection after biopsies. Please take as directed. When preventative antibiotics are taken properly for prostate biopsies, infection is unusual. Contact your doctor if you experience persistent burning with urination or difficulty voiding. Immediate medical attention is required if you develop a high fever and chills.

Procedure time: Approximately 30 minutes.

Post procedure monitoring: Approximately 60 minutes

You may be asked to arrange for someone to accompany you home after the examination. It is not unusual to see a bit of blood in the urine and stool for a day or two after prostate biopsies. You may detect blood in the semen for several weeks.