



UROLOGICAL
CONSULTANTS

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FACTSHEET

PROSTATE BIOPSY

About the Procedure:

Transrectal prostatic ultrasound is a diagnostic tool which allows the urologist to examine the prostate gland in great detail. It is an excellent way to guide specifically directed biopsies of the prostate. Transrectal ultrasound is done by inserting a slender probe into the rectum to visualize the prostate and adjacent structures. Once the prostate has been thoroughly examined, local anesthetics can be injected. The ultrasound is then used to guide the slender needle which will remove a very small piece of tissue to be examined by the pathologist. Multiple biopsies can easily and safely be obtained in this fashion. Patients can experience slight discomfort but it is usually not painful. You should inform your doctor if you have experienced any prior rectal problems including hemorrhoids, fissures or any type of prior rectal surgery.

Preparing for the Procedure:

Your doctor will provide with you specific instructions regarding a mild bowel prep to be performed prior to the procedure. If you are given antibiotics take these exactly as you are instructed. If you are taking any aspirin, arthritis medications, Coumadin, Plavix or blood thinners, please inform your doctor. These medications will generally need to be discontinued seven days before the procedure. If you are unsure about which medications may cause bleeding, ask your doctor.

After the Procedure:

After your biopsy you may temporarily notice a small amount of blood in your urine, stool or semen. This is a very common occurrence and not a cause for alarm. If you should develop heavy bleeding or are unable to urinate then you should call your doctor immediately. If you experience fever or chills anytime after the exam, notify your physician immediately. Take any antibiotics that are prescribed to you for the entire course of treatment. Your physician will give you information at the time of the biopsy for the procedure for obtaining the results of the biopsy.

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