

Prostate Ultrasound and Biopsies

This procedure is usually performed because you have been found to have

1. A high PSA reading on your blood test
2. Your doctor or urologist feels that your prostate may be abnormal on rectal examination
3. A combination of the above

The aim of the procedure is to take small samples of tissue (biopsies) from the prostate gland in an effort to detect the presence or otherwise of prostate cancer. The real time ultrasound scanner that is inserted into the rectum allows an even, targeted distribution of the biopsies to be taken from the prostate gland. These samples are sent to the pathologist for microscopic examination.

Although undignified and uncomfortable, local anaesthetic is injected around the prostate gland before the taking of the biopsies and you should, therefore, experience little or no pain during the procedure.

Because the biopsies are taken via the back passage there is a small risk of introducing infection and you will be prescribed antibiotics prior to the procedure.

The whole procedure takes about fifteen to twenty minutes and although you will be able to drive immediately afterwards it is probably a good idea to have someone else drive you or arrange some other kind of transport home.

It is important to drink plenty of fluids (2 litres of water) for the next few days and if there is some soreness, standard painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen may be beneficial. It is equally as important to complete any prescribed antibiotic course.

The prostate gland has a very good blood supply and therefore it is not surprising that following the taking of biopsies, blood in the semen and urine will be apparent. Whilst this usually settles within a few days, in rarer cases it may persist for a number of days or even weeks. Any blood from the back passage nearly always settles very quickly.

Although very rare - **IF YOU BECOME SHIVERY AND FEEL UNWELL WITH A FEVER WITHIN THE FIRST 24 – 48 Hrs, YOU SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO GO TO THE LOCAL ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

You will need intravenous antibiotic treatment which may require hospital admission.