**Mary Black Physicians Group Urology**

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Urology

**Prostate Biopsy**

**What is a prostate biopsy?**

The prostate is a small gland, found only in men, which is about the size of a walnut and lies at the base of the bladder. The tube draining urine from the bladder is called the urethra and passes through the prostate gland.

As men grow older, the prostate gland starts to enlarge and some men may experience irritation of the bladder and difficulty passing urine. An enlarged prostate is also known as Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). The prostate gland produces a protein called Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) and a raised level of PSA in the bloodstream may indicate benign enlargement, infection, inflammation or prostate cancer.

The best way to determine the cause of a raised PSA level is to take tiny samples (biopsies) from the prostate gland and examine them under a microscope.

**Preparing for your biopsy**

No restrictions of diet or fluids exist for this examination. You should continue any medication as prescribed. You may be asked to stop blood thinners prior to the procedure. You will receive preoperative antibiotics the day of your procedure. It is best to take it easy the day of your procedure and you may resume activities as tolerated.

**About the procedure**

The procedure itself will take around 10-15 minutes. You will receive two antibiotics the day of your procedure, one by mouth and one by injection. You will be asked to lie on your left side on the ultrasound table. The doctor will apply lidocaine jelly into the rectum prior to inserting the ultrasound probe. The doctor performing the procedure will then gently insert the ultrasound probe, about the size of a finger, into the rectum to obtain images of the prostate, which sits immediately in front of the rectum. Local anesthetic is used to make the procedure more comfortable and most men only feel mild discomfort and/or pressure on the bladder. Small biopsy samples (usually twelve) are then taken from the prostate using a biopsy needle, which makes a loud click each time a sample is taken. The samples are then sent to the laboratory.

**What to expect afterwards**

You will be able to drive home and there are no restrictions on what you can do after the biopsy. Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids and take any regular medication as prescribed. The results take 1-2 weeks and will go to your urologist who will give you the results at your follow up appointment. For up to 6 weeks, you may see blood in your urine, stool, and semen.

**What are the possible risks of a Prostate Biopsy?**

Overall, prostate biopsy is a safe procedure but it is important to be aware of the risk of infection due to the fact that the biopsy needle passes from a dirty area (rectum) into a clean area (prostate).

Call your doctor if:

1. You have a temperature over 101 F, chills, or feel weak.

\*\* If you experience any of these problems when the office is closed, you will need to go to the emergency room.

**Contact**

If you have any questions about this procedure, please call Mary Black Physicians Group Urology at (864) 253-8055. The office is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.