

Prostate biopsy

A prostate biopsy will be indicated if you have an abnormally high PSA blood count or an abnormal feeling prostate that may indicate an underlying prostate cancer. Prostate biopsies are an extremely common procedure. An ultrasound is generally performed by passing an ultrasound probe into your rectum to visualise the prostate. The biopsy needle can then be passed directly into the prostate and multiple core samples can be obtained. The procedure can be performed in the office and is generally very well tolerated. It is also however common to have the procedure performed in hospital with a general anaesthetic.

The procedure is generally well tolerated. Men may experience blood in their urine for a few days after the procedure. The prostate itself can become swollen after the procedure and men may also notice a slight decrease in their urinary flow. In men with significant voiding symptoms it may be suggested that they start a medication to improve their flow in the days prior to the biopsy to reduce their risk of blocking off altogether.

Following biopsy men will experience blood in their semen. This can persist for several weeks and even though it is unsightly, it rarely indicates any significant problem and will generally settle with time.

The main risk of prostate biopsy is infection. A very small percentage of men will suffer severe post biopsy infection and may require admission to hospital for intravenous antibiotics. You will be given some antibiotics to take prior to the biopsy and this will be discussed in detail with you before the procedure.