

Introduction

Transrectal Prostate Biopsy is the only diagnostic investigation for carcinoma of prostate, but a negative biopsy does not completely rule out the possibility of the disease. It is an invasive procedure with potential complications.

Indications

1. Clinical suspicion of carcinoma of prostate.
2. Palpable prostate nodule on digital rectal examination.
3. Elevated serum level of prostate specific antigen (PSA).
4. Re-staging of carcinoma of prostate.

The Operation

The procedure usually takes 10 to 15 minutes. An ultrasound probe is passed into your rectum, under USG guidance, a thin needle is inserted through the rectal wall to the prostate. Usually multiple samples are collected for histo-pathology exam.

Before the Procedure

Please notify your doctor if you are taking medications that affect your blood coagulation, such as aspirin or warfarin. These medications should be stopped before the procedure. Please also inform your doctor if there are any symptoms of urinary tract infection, such as fever and dysuria.

After the Procedure

You may find blood in urine, faeces or semen for few weeks. You are advised to drink plenty of fluid over the next few days. If significant bleeding occurs, or if fever develops, medical attention is needed.

Common Risks and Complications (not all possible complications are listed)

1. Life-threatening septicemia (<1%)
2. Infection of the urinary tract (1-5%)
3. Bleeding from rectum
4. Blood-stained urine (can last up to 1 to 2 weeks)
5. Blood-stained semen (can last up to 6 weeks)
6. Retention of urine

Things to take note on discharge

If fever or other serious events develop after discharge, you should seek medical advice.

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor. Evangel Hospital reserves the right to amend this leaflet without prior notice. We welcome suggestions or enquiries on the information provided in this leaflet. Please contact our Healthcare professionals so that we could follow up and make improvement.

Reference

Hospital Authority: "Transrectal Prostate Biopsy" (2020)

Smart Patient: https://www.ekg.org.hk/pilic/public/surgery_pilic/urosurg_transrectalprostatebiopsy_0186_chi.pdf (20-07-2023)