

**Patient  
Information**

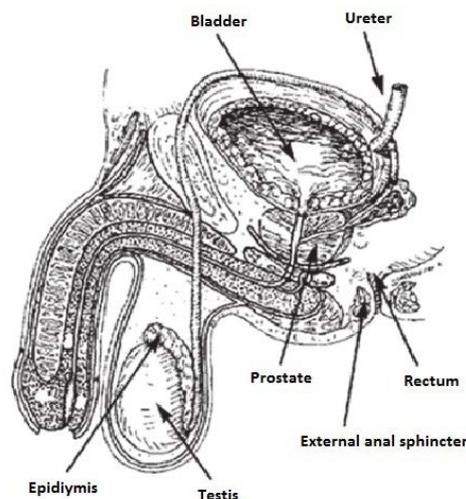
# Transrectal ultrasound scan and biopsy of the prostate gland

## Introduction

You have recently had a finger examination of the prostate or a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test that was either abnormal or unclear. As a result we would like to look into this further by performing a Transrectal Ultrasound Scan (TRUSS) and prostate biopsies. This leaflet will give you information about the scan and prostate biopsies and any possible risks or side effects.

## The prostate gland

The prostate gland is within the pelvis and can be reached through the rectum with a small ultrasound probe. A prostate biopsy is when a small sample of tissue from the prostate is taken to be looked at closely under a microscope.



## What does the TRUSS and prostate biopsies involve?

The TRUSS biopsy of your prostate is carried out in an outpatient clinic. Most patients are awake and have local anaesthetic for the procedure. You can eat and drink as normal before the visit. The procedure itself takes around 15 to 20 minutes; but expect to be in the department for up to 3 hours. It can be uncomfortable but should not be painful.

Reference No.

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Department

Urology

Review due

January 2020

## Patient Information

If you are currently taking any of the following blood thinning medications you may need to stop them before having the biopsy:

- Clopidogrel
- Warfarin
- Dabigatran
- Rivaroxaban

You should have been told if you need to stop this medication when you were seen in the clinic. You should also have been given advice on how and when to stop. If you have not received or been given this information please contact the Urology department on Tel: 0300 422 4271.

## On arrival

When you arrive in the outpatient clinic, you will be welcomed by the nurse or ward clerk who will check your details.

Please bring a urine sample with you to the appointment. This will allow the nurse to make sure there is no infection in the urine before the procedure is carried out. The doctor or specialist nurse will discuss the procedure with you and answer any questions that you may have. They will also check what medication you are taking and give you antibiotics to take before the procedure. You will need to wait about 60 minutes after you have taken the antibiotics, before the procedure can be carried out. This is to allow time for the antibiotics to be absorbed into the bloodstream.

## The procedure

The nurse will call you through to a clinic room and help you to get comfortable lying on your left side.

You will then have a finger examination through the rectum followed by the probe which will measure the prostate and take about 8 to 12 biopsies (samples).

## After the procedure

- You may feel light-headed
- We would like you to stay in the department for at least 30 minutes after the procedure and pass urine before leaving
- regular bowel motions
- You may see blood in the urine or stool for a short period

## Patient Information

- Complete the course of antibiotics as instructed
- If you have a fever or are unwell following the procedure please go to the nearest Emergency Department.

You will receive an appointment to discuss the results of the biopsies with your doctor or nurse specialist in about **3 weeks**.

## Side effects/risks

### 1 in 10 (or greater)

- Blood in your urine for up to 2 weeks
- Blood in your stool or from your back passage (rectum) for up to 2 weeks
- Blood in your semen (for up to 6 weeks)
- Urinary tract infection

### Less common risks

- Severe infection requiring a hospital stay
- Inability to pass urine (retention)

## Further tests

If the results are unclear, or if your PSA climbs higher, you may need further procedures which will be discussed with you during your appointment.

## Contact information

If you have any questions or concern please contact the Urology Department.

### Urology Department

Tel: 0300 422 2986

Please leave a voicemail if there is no answer. We try to return any calls within 24 hours.

Content reviewed: January 2017



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Tel: 0300 422 3231  
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