

PROSTATE BIOPSY

This is where a needle is used to remove tiny pieces of prostate. These pieces are then sent for histopathological analysis to determine if there is any cancer.

The biopsy is carried out using an ultrasound probe inserted into the rectum to provide an image of the prostate that appears on a screen. This enables the biopsy needle to be accurately inserted into the prostate to obtain the tiny samples. A number of samples are taken to ensure that there has been good representation from all areas of the prostate.

The biopsy needle can be inserted through a guide that is attached to the ultrasound probe. The needle will therefore pierce the lining inside the rectum to enter the prostate. This procedure is called a transrectal biopsy. Alternatively the needle can be inserted through the skin behind the scrotum. This is called a transperineal biopsy.

There is a small risk of infection with this procedure and your doctor will routinely prescribe some antibiotics to prevent infection. After the procedure you may see blood in the urine, the ejaculate or the bowel motion. This is not serious and usually settles after a few days. You may also experience some difficulty passing urine. Again this is usually a transient and settles within a few days. If you experience high fevers, excessive bleeding or cannot pass urine, contact your doctor or the Hospital where the procedure was carried out immediately.

It generally takes 2 working days to receive the results of the biopsy. Your doctor will have given you an appointment to discuss these results.

For further information contact Dr Enzo Lazzaro Ph 029982 4477

Disclaimer. This information is of a general nature, it is not intended as a substitute for your own independent advice from your doctor