

Information for Patients

Transperineal Grid Biopsy

What is a prostate biopsy

A prostate biopsy involves using thin needles to take small samples of tissue from the prostate. The tissue is then looked at under a microscope to check for cancer. If cancer is found, the biopsy results will show how aggressive it is – in other words, how likely it is to spread outside the prostate.

What is a transperineal grid biopsy?

This is where the doctor inserts the biopsy needle into the prostate through the skin between the testicles and the back passage (perineum).

As a transperineal biopsy is done under general anaesthetic, you will not feel anything as you will be asleep.

The doctor will put an ultrasound probe into your back passage, using gel to make this easier. An image of the prostate will appear on a screen, which will help the doctor to guide the biopsy needle.

If you've had an MRI scan, the doctor may just take a few samples from the area of the prostate that looked unusual on the scan images. This is known as a targeted biopsy.

The doctor may decide to take several samples from different areas of the prostate. This is either referred to as a template or grid biopsy. The template is placed over the skin area between the testicles and back passage. The needle is then inserted through the holes in the grid into the prostate.

A transperineal biopsy usually takes about 20 to 40 minutes. You will need to wait a few hours to recover from the anaesthetic and your doctor may ask you to wait until you've urinated. This is because the prostate may swell and the doctor will want to make sure you can urinate properly before you leave.

Because you have had a general anaesthetic you will NOT be able to drive home on the day of your procedure and will therefore need someone to take you home

You may return back to your normal activities when it is comfortable to do so. This is usually around two to four days.

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