

Transperineal Ultrasound-guided Prostate Needle Biopsy

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Introduction

When suspecting a prostate cancer, the doctor may suggest a transperineal ultrasound-guided prostate needle biopsy for the patient. It is an invasive procedure to diagnose prostate cancer. However, negative result cannot completely rule out the possibility of prostate cancer.

Indications

1. Clinical suspicious of prostate cancer
2. Digital rectal examination shows prostate nodule
3. Elevated serum prostate specific antigen (PSA) level
4. Re-staging of a known prostate cancer

The procedure

Before the transperineal ultrasound-guided prostate needle biopsy, the patient will be given medication to clear the rectum and antibiotic prophylaxis. After placing the ultrasound probe into the rectum, the doctor obtains multiple biopsies from the prostate through perineum. The whole procedure takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

Possible Complications

1. Life-threatening sepsis (0.1%)
2. Urinary tract infection (1%)
3. Haematuria (may last for 10 days)
4. Haemospermia (may last for 6 weeks)
5. Voiding difficulty / urinary retention (5%)
6. Mild perineal bruising or swelling (10%)
7. Short-term erectile dysfunction (5%)

Precautions

Inform the doctor if taking drugs that affect blood clotting, such as Warfarin or Aspirin, as these drugs may need to be stopped few days before the procedure. If there are symptoms of urinary tract infection such as fever or dysuria before the examination, it is also advisable to report the symptoms to the doctor.

After the procedure

On the same day after the procedure, the patient can be discharged if stable with one-day course of antibiotic and anti-pyrexia medication. Drink more water if there is no contraindication. Haematuria and haemospermia may occur as charted above. If severe bleeding, fever or other symptoms occurs, consult your doctor or visit the emergency department nearby.

Follow up

The patient will be given a follow-up date to review the pathology of prostate biopsies.

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.