

Prostate Biopsy (Transrectal Ultrasound - TRUS)

A transrectal ultrasound uses sound waves to take a picture of the prostate gland

What is a prostate gland?

The prostate is a small gland located below the bladder and surrounding the urinary passage (urethra). Its function is to produce part of the semen produced at ejaculation.

What is a transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) biopsy?

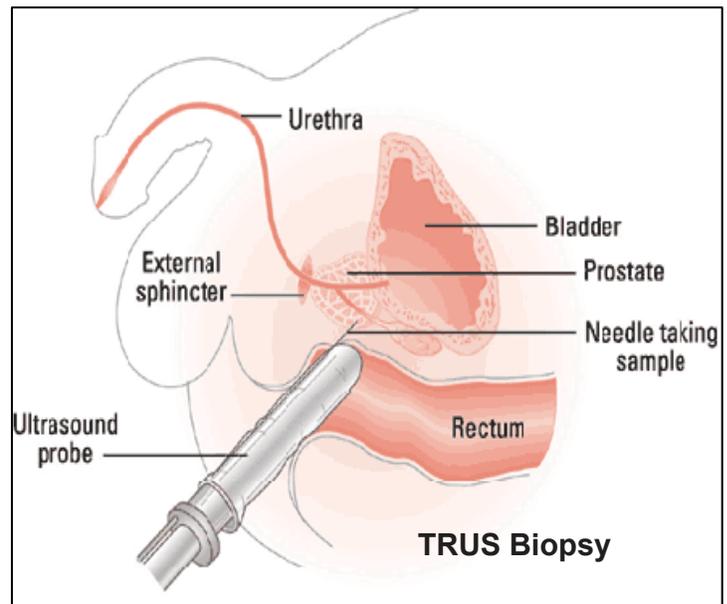
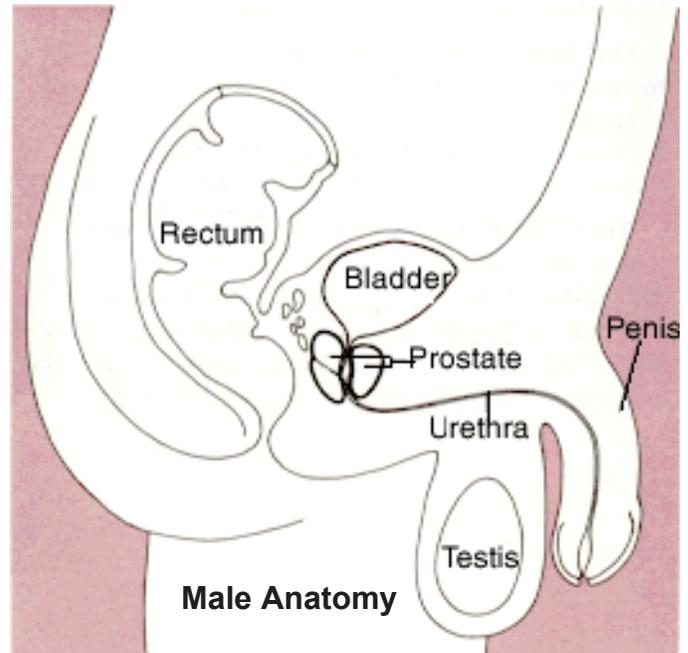
It is a procedure in which the doctor uses TRUS to view and guide a needle into the prostate to take small samples of tissue.

Why do I need a TRUS/prostate biopsy?

Your doctor recommended a TRUS biopsy because of abnormal findings during a digital rectal exam or PSA (Prostatic Specific Antigen) blood test. The biopsy is done to see if you have cancer in your prostate.

How is the biopsy done?

You will put on a gown and lie on your side with knees drawn up to your chest. A small ultrasound probe is inserted into the rectum to take pictures of the prostate. A needle is then attached to the probe to remove several samples of prostate tissue. The entire exam takes 20-30 minutes. The samples are sent to a lab for examination.



Will the biopsy be uncomfortable?

The examination may be uncomfortable but it is unusual for it to be painful. Most men will receive local anesthetic (freezing) injected around the prostate to help prevent pain.

How do I prepare for the biopsy?

If you take blood thinners (such as Warfarin, Pradax, Plavix, or Aspirin) or anti-inflammatory medication (such as Advil or Ibuprofen) your doctor will tell you when these medications need to be stopped before the biopsy. You will receive an antibiotic before your biopsy to help prevent infection. Your doctor or nurse will tell you if any other preparation is needed before the biopsy.

How do I get the biopsy results?

The lab will send a report to the doctor who ordered the test, and the doctor or nurse will tell you the results. Results are usually ready within 10-14 days.

What happens after the biopsy?

The biopsy generally takes less than half an hour and you can usually go home the same day. Some patients have side effects after their biopsy. Common side effects are listed below:

- blood in urine
- blood in semen (may last for up to 6 weeks)
- blood in stool or from rectum
- pelvic discomfort
- pain during urination

Below is a list of complication you should contact your health care provider about if they occur:

- fever (if over 100°F or 38°C, call your doctor right away)
- severe pain, uncontrolled by your pain medication
- unable to pass urine after 8 hours following prostate biopsy
- blood in urine that last for more than 48 hours or blood clots in urine
- blood in stool or from rectum that lasts more than 48 hours or blood clots in stool or from rectum

Additional information about prostate biopsies or prostate cancer:
www.sasksurgery.ca/patient/prostatecancer.html