

# Prostate Biopsy

**Prostate biopsies are performed because of an elevated PSA (greater than 4.0) or because of an abnormal digital rectal exam.**

## **How Many Biopsies Are Taken?**

Depending on the size of the prostate and the abnormality that is present a minimum of six (6) biopsies is performed transrectally.

## **What Are the Possible Risks or Side Effects of the Biopsy?**

During the procedure, you will experience rectal pressure and discomfort because of the size of the probe. You will also feel the need to void especially when the biopsies are taken, so patients are encouraged to void prior to coming in for their appointment.

All patients will experience a bloody discharge through the penis after the biopsy, which will occur prior to voiding or after voiding. The bleeding is minimal and usually subsides in a few days. Blood may also be seen after wiping for a bowel movement or in the semen after ejaculation, the latter may be present for several weeks after the biopsy.

**(If excessive bleeding occurs in the urine, call the office immediately.)**

Patients may have a urinary tract infection after the biopsy. If this occurs, the patient may experience one or all of the following symptoms:

Lethargy-a generalized weak feeling

Sweating

A fever 24-72 hours after the procedure

An infection only occurs in a very small percentage of patients.

However, if these symptoms occur, you **MUST** call the office **IMMEDIATELY** in order to be evaluated and started on stronger antibiotics (through your veins).