

Freehand Ultrasound-Guided Transperineal Prostate Biopsy: Technique and Early Results

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Abstract

Introduction: Approximately 1 million prostate biopsies are performed yearly, the vast majority of which are performed transrectally. Passing biopsy needles through the rectal wall introduces bacteria into the prostate parenchyma. The resistance of coliform bacteria to fluoroquinolone antibiotics is as high as 22%, and the infectious complications have increased to as high as 7% with hospitalization risk as high as 4%. I demonstrate a technique avoiding this infectious risk by passing the biopsy needle through the perineum using a freehand technique under ultrasound monitoring.

Materials and Methods: All procedures were performed in the Ambulatory Urology Surgical Center (Cumberland, MD) by one urologist. Patients requiring prostate biopsy, in accordance with accepted standards of urologic care, were offered the option of sedation and/or local anesthesia. Patients did not receive bowel preparation, prior rectal swab, or pre-/postoperative antibiotics. Intravenous access was obtained for a weight-based dose of cefazolin and propofol-induced procedural anesthesia. Patients were draped in a dorsal lithotomy position, using tape to secure the penis and testicles. A povidoneiodine swab, 10%, was used to prepare the perineum. Transrectal ultrasound with the BK US probe (BK Medical) of the prostate was performed for measurement and identification of potentially pathological regions. A 14-gauge needle was placed into the perineum at the midprostate. Approximately 10 mL of 2% lidocaine was infiltrated into the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and pelvic floor, Under ultrasound supervision, the Bard 18-gauge biopsy gun (Bard Max-Core22 mm; Bard Medical) was placed and reintroduced through the 14-gauge needle into the prostate, with ultrasound confirmed tip location. Three separate regions of the prostate (far lateral, middle, and apical) were sampled. Based on the size of the prostate gland, two to four tissue samples were obtained from each region and placed in separate specimen containers. Pressure was applied to the perineum and a small amount of bacitracin was applied to the puncture site. The procedure was repeated for the opposite side. Patients were discharged following recovery from propofol anesthesia. Patients were instructed to avoid lifting for 24 hours. Patients were called 2 days after the procedure to report the biopsy results to them, schedule follow-up office visits, if necessary, answer questions, and identify problems.

Results: Two hundred thirteen patients underwent ultrasound-guided freehand transperineal prostate biopsy from January 2012 to October 2013. All patients opted for sedation. Biopsy was performed within 10 minutes, and total room time within 15 minutes. None of the patients suffered any postoperative

physician or hospital intervention nor experienced any complication ≥ Clavien Grade I.⁵ All episodes of hematuria were self-limiting.

Conclusions: Ultrasound-guided freehand transperineal prostate biopsy represents a safe and accurate alternative to transrectal biopsy. Previously described transperineal approaches often use a higher degree of anesthesia, unique equipment not routinely available, more personnel, and more time than the traditional transrectal approach.⁶ The technique described above uses the same equipment as the traditional transrectal technique except for a 14-gauge needle and may feasibly be performed under local anesthesia.^{7,8} This procedure can be performed safely within the time frame usually allotted for a transrectal technique with an incidence of infection and hospitalization of zero.

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The authors declare that no competing financial interests exist.

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