



HALTON UROLOGY

Dr. Kevin G. Kwan, BSc (Hons), MD, FRCS(C)
Minimally Invasive Surgery and General Urology

Assistant Clinical Professor
Division of Urology, Department of Surgery
McMaster University

Chief of Surgery, Milton District Hospital

Georgetown Hospital • Milton District Hospital • Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital

Suite 205 - 311 Commercial Street • Milton • Ontario • L9T 3Z9 • Tel: (905) 875-3920 • Fax: (905) 875-4340
Email: office@haltonurology.com • Web: www.haltonurology.com

What is a prostate biopsy or Transrectal Ultrasound guided biopsy of the prostate?

A prostate biopsy is a procedure to remove samples of suspicious tissue from the prostate. The prostate is a small, walnut-shaped gland in men that produces fluid that nourishes and transports sperm.

During a prostate biopsy a needle is used to collect a number of tissue samples from your prostate gland.

A prostate biopsy is used to detect prostate cancer. A prostate biopsy may be recommended if:

- A PSA test shows levels higher than normal for your age
- Lumps or other abnormalities found during a digital rectal exam
- You've had a previous biopsy that was normal, but you still have elevated PSA levels
- A previous biopsy revealed prostate tissue cells that were abnormal but not cancerous

Tissue samples from the prostate biopsy are examined under a microscope for cell abnormalities that are a sign of prostate cancer. If cancer is present, it is evaluated to determine how quickly it's likely to progress and to determine your best treatment options.

Risks associated with a prostate biopsy include:

- **Bleeding at the biopsy site.** Rectal bleeding is common after a prostate biopsy.
- **Blood in your semen.** It's common to notice red or rust coloring in your semen after a prostate biopsy. This indicates blood, and it's not a cause for concern. Blood in your semen may persist for a few weeks after the biopsy.
- **Blood in your urine.** This bleeding is usually minor.
- **Difficulty urinating.** In some men, prostate biopsy can cause difficulty urinating after the procedure. Rarely, a temporary urinary catheter must be inserted.
- **Infection.** Rarely, men who have a prostate biopsy develop an infection of the urinary tract or prostate that requires treatment with antibiotics.

***[Link here to my prostate biopsy handout](#)