



Prostate Seed Implant

The procedure and what to expect

Patients generally undergo an ultrasound mapping of the gland (to measure the size or volume) several weeks prior to the implant. The ultrasound image or map of the gland is used to determine the number, strength and position of the radioactive seeds.

Prior to admission certain tests should be obtained (chest Xray, EKG, CBC, PT,PTT, chemistry panel, urinalysis and a recent PSA.) For two weeks prior to the implant the patient should avoid medicines that contain aspirin, NSAID's, blood thinners, Vitamin E (may prolong bleeding) and the day before should eat lightly, taking nothing after midnight. The evening before the patient should drink a bottle of magnesium citrate (laxative) after dinner. The morning of the procedure he should take a Fleets enema approximately one hour before coming in.

The procedure is performed under anesthesia (either spinal or general) and takes between one and two hours. The ultrasound probe is inserted again into the rectum and the needles are inserted through the skin between the rectum and the scrotum. The ultrasound device has a rigid grid that directs the needles in a straight line and their position is monitored under both ultrasound and Xray fluoroscopy. A catheter is usually inserted into the bladder and sometimes seeds are recovered in the urine. Usually 15 to 25 needles are used and approximately 70 to 100 seeds are inserted, based on the size of the gland.

After the procedure the patient will go to recovery room for about 1 to 2 hours and then be returned to his room. He may be discharged the same day after his bladder catheter is removed and he is able to urinate.

For more information go to web sites: www.aboutcancer.com or www.wellspringoncology.org