Gold Seed

Radiology Service

Information for patients

What is a Gold Seed Procedure?
This procedure involves placing very small gold implants (seeds) into the prostate gland to localise the prostate prior to radiotherapy treatment.

What to Bring:
Bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X-rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.)

Preparation:
You may be required to have a blood test prior to your procedure to check your blood clotting levels.

You will be prescribed antibiotics to take on the morning of your procedure to minimise the risk of infection.

How long will it take?
Once the ultrasound probe is in place, the procedure usually takes about 10 minutes.

Eating/ drinking:
You may eat and drink as normal.

Medications:
Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any blood thinning medications (e.g. Warfarin, Xarelto, Rivaroxaban, Pradaxa, Apixaban, Eliquis) or any antiplatelet medications (e.g. Clopidogrel, Plavix, Aspirin).

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your procedure.

On the day of your scan, please bring with you a list of all medications you are taking.

Procedure:
On arrival to the hospital a nurse will discuss with you your medical history and the doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will then be given an enema to ensure your bowel is empty.

During the procedure, you will be lying on your left side and your rectum will be cleaned with an antiseptic wash. The doctor will insert an ultrasound probe into the rectum to locate the prostate gland. Once located, the doctor will implant the gold seeds into the prostate gland. Once the gold seeds are in place the ultrasound probe will be removed.
Post Procedure Care:
As a result of the procedure you may notice small amounts of blood in your urine and bowel movements. This should clear up after 1-2 days post procedure. If you notice blood clots or large amounts of blood in either your urine or bowel movements you should contact your local GP or present to your closest emergency department.

If you experience any pain or discomfort post procedure, you should take simple pain relief such as paracetamol as required.

Discharge
Generally you will be able to go home the same day as your procedure if you have no other medical conditions/concerns that require further treatment.

You will be provided with an information sheet regarding discharge instructions upon completion of your procedure.

Results:
The results together with the procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. Return to your doctor to discuss examination results.

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