

Case study: Trialling safer prostate biopsies

The Trust was invited to take part in its First “first in human study” during 2019/20.

This involved using a new medical device called a “CamProbe” for transperineal prostate biopsies.

Prostate cancer is the most common male malignant cancer and a leading cause of mortality. The diagnosis is based on a transrectal ultrasound guided biopsy of the prostate under local anaesthesia. This method passes a needle through the bowel wall, which inevitably allows bacteria to enter the urinary system and the blood stream. A significant number of patients will develop infections, despite prophylactic antibiotics.

The new device we trialled passes through the perineum thus avoiding the bowel and has an integrated method for delivering local anaesthesia. The primary aim was to assess the safety of the device as a method of acquiring prostate biopsy samples.

We measured the incidence of infection at seven and 30 days after biopsy. We also gathered patients’ experiences based on pain scores, and impact on urinary and sexual function.

Our data is now being analysed and we hope that it will lead to this device being approved for medical use (CE marked) and then into clinical applications.