

Incision free surgery for prostate cancer

A growing number of men are choosing a treatment for early prostate cancer known as prostate brachytherapy. This involves the insertion of tiny radioactive seeds into the prostate and offers the same high cure rate as a radical prostatectomy (surgical removal of the prostate), but with a much lower risk of incontinence and erection problems.



Professor Stephen Langley, consultant urologist

Currently, prostate brachytherapy is the only minimally invasive procedure to be approved by NICE. It offers a fast and effective treatment for localised prostate cancer, allowing men to be treated at a time convenient to both themselves and their families, without causing a major disruption to their lives.

PROSTATE BRACHYTHERAPY

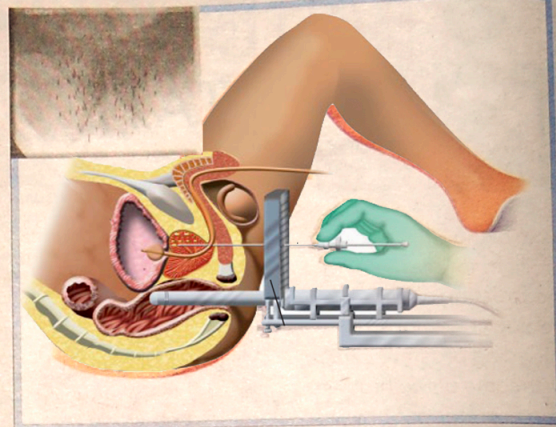
With prostate brachytherapy, radioactive seeds are permanently implanted into the prostate using ultrasound guidance whilst the patient is under a general anaesthetic. This targeted approach allows a higher dose of radiation to be directed at the prostate tumour, than with conventional radiotherapy, de-

stroying the cancer cells without damaging the surrounding healthy tissue. The procedure is usually completed in less than an hour with minimal post treatment discomfort. Because there is no surgical incision, recovery times are much shorter and most men are able to go home the same or following day. They may be back at work and carrying out normal activities a few days later.

10TH ANNIVERSARY

One of Europe's leading centres of excellence for prostate brachytherapy is The Prostate Cancer Centre at The St Luke's Cancer Centre in Guildford which treats both private and NHS patients. Next year will see the 10th anniversary of the first prostate brachytherapy procedure performed there and, so far, more than 1,600 men have been successfully treated.

Their results are impressive. Of their first 500 patients treated at the Centre, and followed up for 7 years, over 90 per cent are free from prostate cancer. Furthermore, less than one per cent of the patients experienced urinary incontinence and 83 per cent retained their potency; results more



Radioactive seeds are implanted using ultrasound guidance

favourable than with conventional treatments.

The Centre is lead by Professor Stephen Langley, consultant urologist, and Dr Robert Laing, consultant oncologist, who have many years experience in this field. They believe that for suitable patients, this treatment option offers the best quality of life outcomes, with a cure rate to match the best achieved by surgery. Indeed, in the USA, it is now one of the most requested treatments for localised prostate cancer with over 50,000 implants a year performed.

Choosing a treatment for prostate cancer is not an easy decision. The side effects which may arise from

prostate cancer treatments can not only affect your life, but also your partner's.

The Prostate Cancer Centre in Guildford can help you by offering confidential advice and counselling on prostate cancer, and determining whether prostate brachytherapy is a suitable option for you.

To make an appointment, or for more information, call the Prostate Cancer Centre on 0845 370 7000.

For further information go to www.prostatecancercentre.com or www.prostatebrachytherapyinfo.net