

Your treating doctor:



RaDiagnostiX
Quality Programme

Free patient leaflet to take away!

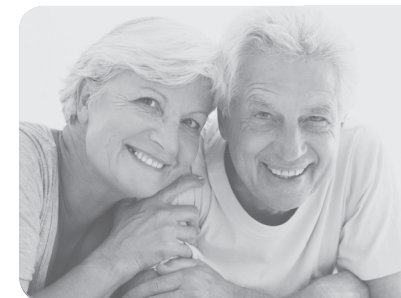
Prostate Cancer Diagnosis

Cooperation Between Urologists and Radiologists

Radiologienetz Deutschland
Haus der Radiologie
Ringstraße 19 B
69115 Heidelberg

Phone: +49 6221 5025-0
Fax: +49 6221 5025-200
Mail: info@radiologienetz.de

Internet:
www.radiologienetz.de
www.radiologie.de



Dear Patients,

Carcinoma of the prostate is the most frequent malignant tumour in men. Current figures suggest that around 68,000 men develop prostate cancer per year. Prostate checkups are therefore very important. The early detection of a tumour, its characteristics and the extent to which it has spread are crucial in being able to select the best course of treatment, as well as for planning surgery and radiation to minimise secondary complications.

Urologists and radiologists in the German Network of Radiologists (Radiologienetz Deutschland) are working hand-in-hand in order to improve your prostate diagnosis. They use a novel and very precise imaging technique: multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging for detecting and identifying tumours.



MRI scan improves certainty

The multiparametric MRI performed by a radiologist supplements the customary approach used by urologists in prostate cancer screening. The urologist performs a palpation examination and determines the blood values (PSA; prostate-specific antigens value). Should there be a suspicion of a prostatic carcinoma, a tissue sample must be taken for further investigation (biopsy). In this case, a multiparametric MRI examination is scheduled with the radiologist's MRI scanner. It is able to identify suspicious and particularly aggressive tumour masses in the prostate so clearly that the success rate in tissue sampling is even higher. Unnecessary biopsies can be avoided and the detection rate is higher should a tumour be present. As the multiparametric MRI combines multiple supplementary examinations in one go, it offers higher diagnostic reliability in the detection of carcinomas.

Hand-in-hand towards a better diagnosis

This approach is coordinated between urologists and radiologists taking part in the RaDiagnostiX quality programme on an individual and prompt basis for you. In terms of documentation, you will receive a patient book in which your appointments, examinations and next steps will be recorded. This means that, even in the case of hospitalisation, you will always be able to provide information and have answers ready about your medical history even years later. The multiparametric MRI therefore makes a considerable contribution to treatment planning individually geared towards you and, as a radiation-free procedure, is particularly suitable for regular checkups.

Why have a multiparametric MRI?

With the customary urological screening examinations used to date, there are many factors that could potentially lead to uncertainty in the diagnosis:

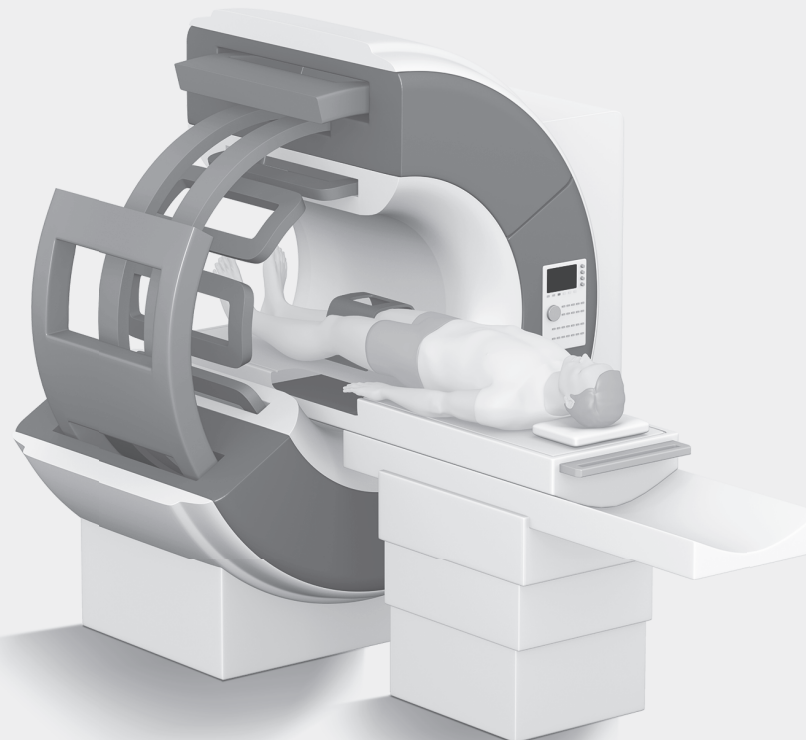
- In a palpation examination, it is common that not all parts of the prostate can be reached. There are often no further examinations in the case of a negative test result.
- An increased PSA value is not necessarily caused by a carcinoma.
- Conversely, malignant changes to the prostate may also be the case even in the event of a slight increase in the PSA value.
- The transrectal biopsy cannot reach all areas equally well. A whole host of punch biopsies is therefore often performed in patients with an increased PSA value. Even if all of these come back negative, there is still some residual uncertainty for the patient.

A lack of diagnostic certainty can lead to tumours not being detected in time. On the other hand, it is worth avoiding the over-treatment of non-clinically significant tumours, which results in patient stress and a higher need for rehabilitation following surgery (incontinence, impotence).

The multiparametric MRI offers greater certainty in this area – for doctors and patients alike.

Under which circumstances is this examination a good idea?

- For patients with an increased PSA value (suspected prostate cancer)
- In the case of increased hereditary risk
- Before a prostate biopsy (tissue sampling)
- Following a negative biopsy (tissue sampling) for further certainty or checks
- Before planning surgery and radiation
- During active surveillance therapy
- Should a relapse be suspected ("PSA recurrence") after the complete removal of the prostate



Sequence of the multiparametric MRI

The multiparametric MRI is performed by a radiologist in an MRI scanner. The machine works with magnetic and radio waves, and so is radiation-free. The examination lasts approximately 40 minutes, with the patient lying comfortably on his back. The use of an endorectal coil (carefully inserted into the rectum) is not always necessary. To reduce intestinal movements, the patient may be given medication before the examination, and the bladder should be emptied beforehand. A well-tolerated contrast agent, that does not contain iodine, is administered via a vein cannula in the arm. This helps to show the circulation of blood in the prostate and in assessing lymph nodes and neighbouring structures.

Who pays for the examination?



What is special about this examination is that it consists of several parts and uses a wide variety of tissue information in order to be able to calculate an accurate prediction on the existence or absence of a tumour. It is therefore a complicated procedure.

The costs for the examination are generally borne by **private health insurers**. Please check in advance of the scheduled examination whether your private health insurer will bear the costs.

Unfortunately, **statutory health insurance** does not generally assume the costs under current law. We offer the examination to patients covered

under statutory insurance as an optional service. You can arrange this examination with us and bear the costs yourself. We would be happy to further advise you.

More information on the subject of prostates can be found at www.radiologie.de

