



# One-Stop Diagnostic Clinic for men with suspected penile cancer

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**You have been referred to our One-Stop Diagnostic Clinic because your doctor has found an area on your penis that requires further investigation. This leaflet explains what you can expect to happen in the clinic.**

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## What is the One-Stop Diagnostic Clinic?

The aim of this clinic is to perform all the necessary tests and specialist reviews in a single visit, whenever possible, so that you can receive a clear diagnosis and management plan without unnecessary delays.

## What can I expect to happen at the clinic?

Your visit may take several hours, so please plan to be with us for most of the day. You are welcome to bring a friend or relative for support and it is a good idea to bring something to occupy your time while you wait.

Your visit will usually include:

- **Consultant review:** You will be seen by a consultant urologist who specialises in penile conditions. The consultant will review your medical history, examine you, and explain the planned investigations. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions and to give your consent before any procedures go ahead.
- **Ultrasound scan of the groin (inguinal lymph nodes):** An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to create images of the lymph nodes in your groin area. (A lymph node is a small, bean-shaped part of the immune system which helps to fight diseases but through which cancer cells can spread.) A small amount of gel will be applied to your skin, and an ultrasound probe will be moved gently over the area. The scan is painless and usually takes about 15-20 minutes. If any enlarged lymph nodes are seen during the ultrasound scan, the doctor may recommend a fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC).
- **Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) (if required):** FNAC involves using a fine needle to collect a small sample of cells from a lymph node. Local anaesthetic is used to numb the area so the procedure should be pain free. The sample is then sent to the laboratory to check for any cancer cells. You may feel some mild discomfort or have slight bruising afterwards, but this usually settles quickly.
- **CT scan:** A CT (computed tomography) scan provides detailed images of the body to help assess whether any disease has spread. You may be given an injection of contrast dye into a vein in your arm before the scan to improve image quality. The scan is painless and takes about 10-15 minutes. **Please inform staff if you have any allergies, kidney problems, or diabetes before the scan.**

- **Penile biopsy (if required):** If the consultant feels it is necessary, a small biopsy (tissue sample) of the affected area on the penis will be taken. This is done using local anaesthetic cream and/or injection to numb the area. A small sample is removed and sent for examination under a microscope. You may experience slight discomfort or bleeding afterwards, but this usually settles within a few days.

The team will give you advice on how to care for the area after the biopsy before you leave the unit.

## **After your visit**

The results of your tests and scans will be reviewed by the clinical team.

You may have an initial discussion with the consultant or one of their team on the day of your clinic appointment, but full results usually take one to two weeks.

You will be contacted with a follow-up appointment to discuss the results and next steps in your care once the results are ready.

## **Preparations for the clinic visit**

- Eat and drink normally unless you are told otherwise.
- Bring a list of your current medications and any allergies.
- Please wear loose-fitting clothing.
- Bring any previous scan results or medical records, if available.
- Please let the clinic know in advance if you have mobility or communication needs.

## **Risks and side effects**

Most of the procedures are safe and well tolerated. Occasionally, you may experience:

- Mild discomfort, bruising or bleeding at the biopsy or FNAC site.
- Infection at the biopsy site (contact the clinic or your GP if you notice redness, swelling, or increasing pain).
- Very rare allergic reaction to CT contrast dye.

**If you experience heavy bleeding, severe pain, or swelling, please contact the Urology Department or attend your nearest Emergency Department.**

## **Contact us**

Urology Department  
Frederick Potts Unit  
Royal Berkshire Hospital  
London Road, Reading RG1 5AN

Urology Nurse Specialist Team  
0118 322 7905  
Email: [urology.info@royalberkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:urology.info@royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

## Further support and information

- [NHS - Penile Cancer](#)
- [Macmillan Cancer Support](#)
- [Cancer Research UK](#)

## We value your feedback

You can share your views on the care you received via the Friends and Family Test, available in clinic or online at <https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/patient-experience> or scan the QR code.



To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

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