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POST-RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY BIOPSIES OF THE PROSTATIC FOSSA

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Background: Biopsy of the prostatic fossa is performed when serum prostatic specific antigen (PSA) is detected and no evidence of metastatic disease is found. The purpose of this study was to analyze the findings present on this type of biopsy material.

Design: Between June 1990 and June 1996, 465 post-radical prostatectomy biopsies of the prostatic fossa from 393 patients were identified in our files. A retrospective study to determine the presence of cancer, the characteristics of the tumor, and the presence of benign prostatic glands was performed.

Results: Patients ranged in age from 45 to 89 years (mean = 68.3). Of the cases with reported PSA values, 43.0% had < 1.0 ng/ml. Cancer was identified in 198 cases (50.4%). The Gleason scores more frequently found were 6 and 7. Benign prostatic glands were present in 115 (29.3%) cases, 64 of 198 positive cases (32.3%) and 51 of 195 negative cases (26.2%).

Conclusion: Post-radical prostatectomy biopsies of the prostatic fossa, in the presence of detectable serum PSA, have a high positive yield for adenocarcinoma. The frequent presence of benign prostatic glands in positive biopsies raises the possibility of residual intraprostatic cancer in such cases.