



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Efficacy and safety of fosfomycin-trometamol in the prophylaxis for transrectal prostate biopsy. Prospective randomized comparison with ciprofloxacin<sup>☆</sup>

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### KEYWORDS

Prostate biopsy;  
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### Abstract

**Objective:** Prostate biopsy is the standardized diagnostic method for prostate cancer. However, although there is not a standardized protocol, there are recommendations in order to reduce the incidence of complications. The objective of the present work is to assess the efficacy and safety of antibiotic prophylaxis in the prostate biopsy by comparing two antibiotic regimes: two doses of fosfomycin-trometamol 3 g (FMT) every 48 h with 10 doses of oral ciprofloxacin 500 mg every 12 h for 5 days.

**Material and methods:** Randomized prospective study was performed with 671 patients who had undergone to walking transrectal ultrasound guided prostate biopsy. Patients of group A ( $n=312$ ) were treated with ciprofloxacin, and patients of group B ( $n=359$ ) with FMT. Efficacy and tolerability of two prophylactic regimes were compared. Urine culture was carried out at 2 weeks after biopsy. Initially, patients with asymptomatic bacteriuria were not treated with antibiotics; urine culture was repeated after 1 month, persistent bacteriuria was treated according to antibiogram.

**Results:** No differences between groups were found in age ( $p=0.78$ ), cancer presence ( $p=0.9$ ) or number of biopsy cylinders ( $p=0.93$ ). The mean number of cores obtained was  $11.3 \pm 3.25$  (range 6–20). Digestive intolerance was observed for 9 patients (2.9%) of group A and 10 patients (2.8%) in group B. One patient (.3%) of group A showed severe allergic reaction. In total, 167 patients (24.6%) had complications: 16 (2.4%) fever, 47 (6.9%) hematospermia, 81 (11.9%) hematuria, 7 (1%) rectal bleeding and 16 (2.4%) urinary retention. No statistically differences between groups were observed (27.6% vs. 22.6%;  $p=0.17$ ). However, hematospermia was more frequent in group A (9.9% vs. 4.5%;  $p=0.006$ ). Bacteriuria after biopsy was detected in 44 patients (6.6%),

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being more frequent in group B patients (4.2% vs. 8.6%;  $p=0.02$ ) although a higher number of second treatment cycles were not needed (53.9% vs. 29%;  $p=0.17$ ). The likelihood of resistance to ciprofloxacin in patients with bacteriuria in A was greater than that of FMT in B (69.2% vs. 41.9%;  $p=0.0004$ ).

**Conclusions:** Antibiotic prophylaxis with FMT (2 doses of 3 g) in prostate biopsy is an alternative as effective and safe as ciprofloxacin (10 doses of 500 mg), which carries lower rate of resistance. According to our experience, this drug is a safe, well-tolerated, and easily manageable prophylactic option, facilitating patient compliance. More prospective multicenter studies are necessary to confirm these findings.

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## PALABRAS CLAVE

Biopsia de próstata;  
Profilaxis antibiótica;  
Ciprofloxacino;  
Fosfomicina-  
trometamol

## Eficacia y seguridad de fosfomicina-trometamol en la profilaxis de la biopsia transrectal de la próstata: estudio prospectivo aleatorizado comparativo con ciprofloxacino

### Resumen

**Objetivo:** La biopsia de próstata constituye el estándar de diagnóstico del cáncer de próstata. No existe un protocolo estandarizado, pero sí recomendaciones que ayudan a disminuir la incidencia de complicaciones. El objetivo de este trabajo es evaluar la eficacia y seguridad de la profilaxis antibiótica en biopsia prostática comparando 2 dosis de fosfomicina-trometamol (FMT) 3 g (cada 48 h) con 10 de ciprofloxacino oral 500 mg (cada 12 h, 5 días).

**Material y métodos:** Estudio prospectivo aleatorizado con 671 pacientes sometidos a biopsia prostática transrectal ecodirigida ambulante. El grupo A ( $n=312$ ) recibió ciprofloxacino y el B ( $n=359$ ) FMT. Se comparó la eficacia de ambos regímenes y tolerabilidad del tratamiento. Se practicó cultivo de orina a las 2 semanas de la biopsia. Los pacientes con bacteriuria asintomática no recibieron tratamiento antibiótico inicialmente, y se les practicó un nuevo cultivo de orina al mes, tratándose la bacteriuria persistente según el antibiograma.

**Resultados:** No existieron diferencias entre grupos respecto a la edad ( $p=0,78$ ), presencia de cáncer ( $p=0,9$ ) o número de cilindros ( $p=0,93$ ). El número medio de cilindros obtenidos fue  $11,3 \pm 3,25$  (rango: 6–20). Nueve pacientes (2,9%) en A y 10 (2,8%) en B presentaron intolerancia digestiva. Un caso (0,3%) en A presentó reacción alérgica severa. En total 167 (24,6%) presentaron complicaciones: 16 (2,4%) fiebre, 47 (6,9%) hemospermia, 81 (11,9%) hematuria, 7 (1%) rectorragia y 16 (2,4%) retención urinaria. No se detectaron diferencias entre grupos (27,6 vs. 22,6%;  $p=0,17$ ), pero sucedió más hemospermia en A (9,9 vs. 4,5%;  $p=0,006$ ). En 44 (6,6%) se detectó bacteriuria tras la biopsia, más frecuente en B (4,2 vs. 8,6%;  $p=0,02$ ), aunque sin precisar mayor número de segundos tratamientos (53,9 vs. 29%;  $p=0,17$ ). La probabilidad de resistencia a ciprofloxacino en pacientes con bacteriuria en A fue mayor que la de FMT en B (69,2 vs. 41,9%;  $p=0,0004$ ).

**Conclusiones:** La profilaxis antibiótica en la biopsia prostática con FMT (2 dosis de 3 g) es una opción igual de eficaz y segura que ciprofloxacino (10 dosis de 500 mg), que lleva menor tasa de resistencias. En nuestra experiencia la profilaxis con este fármaco es una opción segura, bien tolerada y de cómoda administración, lo que facilita su cumplimiento. Se necesitan estudios multicéntricos prospectivos que confirmen estos hallazgos.

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## Introduction

Prostate cancer is the most common solid malignancy in men and is the second cause of death from cancer.<sup>1</sup> It accounts for 11.7% of newly diagnosed cases of cancer worldwide, reaching 19% in developed countries.<sup>2</sup> For a confirmatory histological diagnosis, it is necessary to perform a prostate biopsy, which is generally transrectal (TRPB), echo-directed and carried out in an ambulatory setting. This procedure is performed due to elevated PSA or a digital rectal examination suspicious for malignancy. The patient's age and comorbidity must be taken into account, thereby balancing the risks and benefits of its performance. This last point

is highly important, given the possibility of identifying incidental tumors which may lead to therapeutic consequences that the patient is not willing to assume. Therefore, the patient must be properly informed. There is no consensus on the optimal number of samples which should be collected either; it has been proven that collecting a minimum of 8 prostate cylinders and a maximum of 12 raises the cancer detection rate up to 20–33% of cases.<sup>3</sup>

Despite the fact that there is no uniformly accepted protocol regarding the performance of TRPB, there is a series of recommendations which help to decrease the risks and complications associated with its performance, among which we may find hematuria, hemospermia, acute urinary

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