

Prostate Artery Embolization (PAE)

A Minimally Invasive Treatment for Enlarged Prostate (BPH)

What are the Symptoms of an Enlarged Prostate?

Men with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) may experience:

- Frequent urination, especially at night
- Difficulty starting urination
- Weak urine stream
- Feeling that the bladder does not empty completely
- An urgent need to urinate
- Interrupted urine flow

What Is Prostate Artery Embolization?

Prostate Artery Embolization (PAE) is a minimally invasive procedure used to treat symptoms caused by BPH.

During the PAE procedure, a specially trained physician (an interventional radiologist) “embolizes” or blocks selected blood vessels that supply the prostate. This reduces blood flow, allowing the prostate to shrink over time, which can relieve urinary symptoms.

PAE versus Surgery

PAE offers several advantages compared with traditional prostate surgery:

Minimally invasive

- No surgical incision
- Performed through a tiny puncture in the wrist or groin
- Lower risk of complications
- Reduced risk of bleeding
- Lower chance of sexual side effects
- Low risk for a Foley catheter

Preserves sexual function

- Some studies show minimal improvement in ED, and overall evidence indicates no increased risk of erectile dysfunction

Quick recovery

- Typically performed as an outpatient procedure
- Most patients return to normal activities within a few days

Effective symptom relief

- Patients experience equivalent improvement in urinary symptoms compared to other minimally invasive surgical treatments
- Improved quality of life



What Happens During the PAE Procedure?

- Local anesthesia and mild sedation are given.
- A small catheter is inserted into an artery in the wrist or groin.
- Using X-ray guidance, the doctor navigates the catheter to the arteries supplying the prostate.
- Tiny particles are injected to block these vessels.
- Reduced blood flow causes the prostate to shrink gradually.
- The procedure usually takes 1–2 hours.

PAE may be a good option for men who:

- Have moderate to severe BPH symptoms
- Want to avoid surgery
- Are not good candidates for surgery due to medical conditions
- Have not had sufficient relief from medications

If you are experiencing symptoms of an enlarged prostate, we can help you determine if Prostate Artery Embolization may be an appropriate treatment option for you.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, contact us at 913.944.4900.



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