Green Light Laser Surgery

Before the GreenLight PVP Laser Procedure, patients were forced to choose between an effective yet invasive surgery and heat therapies that were safer but less effective. The GreenLight PVP Laser Procedure (Photoselective Vaporization of the Prostate) offers a unique and simple solution to BPH because it combines the effectiveness of a TURP (transurethral resection of the prostate), the surgical "gold standard", with the safety comfort and ease of a minimally invasive treatment.

The GreenLight PVP Laser Procedure uses a very precise laser to immediately vaporize and remove enlarged prostate tissue. It is virtually bloodless, most patients return home a few short hours after the procedure, can experience almost immediate symptom relief, and can return to normal, non-strenuous activities within days.

Expected Outcomes:

- Over 85% improvement in urinary symptoms including:
  - the number of times you get up to urinate at night
  - feeling of emptying more completely
  - force of your urinary stream
  - urgency episodes
  - straining to empty completely

Up to 12% of patients will experience urinary urgency and/or frequency for anywhere from a few weeks to a few months following surgery. This is normal. Talk to your doctor to discuss medications that may relieve this.

Up to 6% of patients will experience burning with urination that can last from a few days to a few months.

Most patients have some bleeding with urination following the procedure. This may be accompanied with small blood clots. This is normal, and should be relieved by increasing your fluid intake.

A small number of patients will not be able to urinate after the procedure and will need to wear a urinary catheter for a few days while the swelling goes down.

Depending on your prostate size and how severe your urinary symptoms are to begin with, improvement in your urination can be immediate or can continue to slowly improve for up to 12-36 months after your procedure.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is the GreenLight PVP procedure FDA approved?
Yes, the GreenLight PVP Laser Procedure received FDA clearance in May 2001.

How many GreenLight PVP procedures have been performed?
Tens of Thousands of patients have been successfully treated with the GreenLight PVP Laser Procedure in the US, Europe, and Far East.

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Is the procedure covered by insurance?
Yes, the GreenLight PVP procedure is covered by Medicare and by most private insurance plans.

How does GreenLight PVP work?
The GreenLight PV Laser System is a patented green light laser that provides the energy to perform the PVP procedure. A thin fiber is inserted into the urethra through a cystoscope, a camera that allows the doctor to examine the bladder and prostate. The fiber delivers green laser energy that quickly vaporizes and precisely removes enlarged prostate tissue. The doctor is able to safely view and control the treatment area, tailoring it to your individual anatomy and needs. Because the tissue is vaporized and removed, a wide-open channel is created. Natural urine flow is immediately restored and urinary symptoms are relieved quickly.

Where is PVP procedure performed?
The GreenLight PVP procedure is performed in a hospital. Most patients are released after a few hours but an overnight stay can be recommended in certain situations.

Will I have to spend the night in the hospital?
Most patients can go home a few hours after the procedure. Sometimes a patient needs to spend the night and go home the following morning.

Will I need anesthesia?
You will need anesthesia of some type for the GreenLight PVP procedure. Depending upon your individual medical condition, the doctor may use general or spinal anesthesia.

Will I feel any pain during the GreenLight PVP procedure?
Patients have not reported any pain during the procedure.

Will I feel pain after the procedure?
After the procedure you may have some mild discomfort such as burning during urination. This can be managed with mild pain medications and anti-inflammatory drugs. Most patients are comfortable, and require only mild, over-the-counter analgesics, such as Tylenol® or Advil®.

Will I have to wear a catheter?
Most patients have their catheter removed 4 hours after the procedure, however, certain situations may require you to have a catheter for a longer period of time.

How long before I see results?
Most patients obtain immediate relief of symptoms and dramatic improvement in your urine flow within 24 hours of the procedure. However, urinary symptoms can continue to improve for 12-36 months after the procedure.

How long is the recovery time? How soon can I return to normal activities?
Most patients can resume normal activities within a few days. You will have to avoid more strenuous activities, as well as lifting more than 30 pounds or riding a lawnmower for example, for about 2 weeks following the GreenLight PVP Laser procedure.
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What are the side effects, risks and complications of GreenLight PVP?
The PVP procedure is generally considered to be very safe. Most patients report a very high level of satisfaction. Patients may experience burning during urination and/or some blood in the urine for anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. Some men may experience more severe symptoms, which can be treated by your doctor. Retrograde ejaculation, or "dry climax" following treatment may occur. According to clinical studies, no patients have suffered permanent loss of control of their bladder (incontinence); loss of sexual ability (erectile dysfunction); or have required a blood transfusion.

Will I still be able to have sex following the PVP procedure?
The GreenLight PVP Procedure should not affect your ability to have an erection or an orgasm. Some men have reported retrograde ejaculation, or "dry climax" following the procedure. If you are sexually active now, you can look forward to remaining sexually active.

Can I have PVP if I have failed TUNA or TUMT?
Yes, many patients who have failed these treatments have been successfully treated with PVP.

Can I have PVP if I had a TURP?
Yes, absolutely.

My doctor has told me that I am not a candidate for TUNA or TUMT and has recommended that I have a TURP? Can I still have the PVP procedure?
As a rule, if you are a suitable candidate for TURP, you can be considered a good candidate for PVP. Prostate size or length does not generally rule you out as being a good candidate for PVP; however, your doctor will need to make that determination, based upon your individual condition.

Will I still need to take my prostate medication following the PVP procedure?
No. You can stop these medicines following your procedure. Ask your doctor when he would like you to stop taking these medications.

How do I know if I am a candidate for PVP?
Only your urologist can determine if you are a candidate, based upon your history & physical examination, as well as his clinical judgement.

How long can I expect the effects of the procedure to last?
Clinical studies show that the effects of the procedure are very long lasting. Very few patients require retreatment.

How can I learn more about GreenLight PVP?
Please consult your urologist for more detailed information and risks. As with any medical procedure individual results will vary. The statements on this website are based on typical clinical study outcomes.