

1 **Detection of significant prostate cancer using target saturation in transperineal**
2 **MRI/TRUS-fusion biopsy**

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4 Running Title: Target saturation biopsy for significant prostate cancer detection

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27 **MeSH Key words:** Prostate cancer, MRI, targeted biopsy, target saturation,

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29 **Abbreviations:**

30

31 DCE: Dynamic contrast-enhanced Imaging

32 DRE: Digital-rectal examination

33 ESUR: European Society of Urogenital Radiology

34 GGG: Gleason Grade group

35 mpMRI: multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging

36 MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging

37 NPV: Negative predictive value

38 PC: Prostate cancer

39 PI-RADS: Prostate Imaging - Reporting and Data System

40 PSA: Prostate specific antigen

41 PV: Prostate volume

42 RP: Radical prostatectomy

43 SB: Systematic biopsy

44 sPC: Significant prostate cancer

45 STARD: Standards of Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy

46 TB: Targeted biopsy

47 TRUS: transrectal ultrasound

48 TS: Target saturation biopsy

49 **Abstract:**

50 Background:

51 Multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging (mpMRI) and targeted biopsies (TB)
52 facilitate accurate detection of significant prostate cancer (sPC). However, it remains
53 unclear how many cores should be applied per target.

54 Objective:

55 To assess sPC detection rates of two different target-dependent MRI/transrectal
56 ultrasonography (**TRUS**)-fusion biopsy approaches (TB and target saturation (TS))
57 **compared** to extended systematic biopsies (SB).

58 Design, setting and participants:

59 **Retrospective single-centre outcome of transperineal MRI/TRUS-fusion biopsies**
60 **of 213 men.** All men underwent TB with 2-4 cores per MRI lesion, followed by a median
61 of 24 SB, **performed by experienced urologists.** Cancer and sPC (ISUP grade group
62 ≥ 2) detection rates were analyzed. TB was compared to SB and to TS with 9 cores
63 per target, calculated by the Ginsburg scheme and using individual cores of the lesion
64 and its "penumbra".

65 Outcome measurements and statistical analysis:

66 Cancer detection rates were calculated for TS, TB and SB at both lesion and patient
67 level. Combination of SB+TB served as reference. **Statistical differences in PC**
68 **detection between groups were calculated using McNemar's tests with**
69 **Confidence intervals.**

70 Results and limitations:

71 TS detected 99% of 134 sPC lesions, which was significantly higher compared to TB
72 (87%, $p=0.001$) and SB (82%, $p<0.001$). SB detected significantly more of the **72** low-
73 risk PC lesions than TB (99 vs. 68%, $p=0.01$) and **10% ($p=0.04$)** more than TS. At a
74 per-patient level, 99% of men harbouring sPC were detected by TS. This was
75 significantly higher compared to TB and SB (89%, $p=0.03$ and 81%, $p=0.001$).
76 Limitations include limited generalisability, as a transperineal biopsy route was used.

77 Conclusions:

78 **TS** detected significantly more sPC compared to TB and extended SB. Given that
79 each 99% of sPC lesions and men harboring sPC were identified by TS, **the results**
80 **suggest that** this approach allows to omit SB cores without compromising sPC
81 detection.

82

83 Patient summary (40 words):

84 Target saturation of MRI-suspicious prostate lesions provides excellent cancer
85 detection and finds less low-risk tumors than the current gold standard combination of
86 targeted and systematic biopsies.

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90 **1. Introduction**

91
92 Multiparametric MRI (mpMRI) of the prostate is increasingly used to accurately
93 diagnose significant prostate cancer (sPC) [1–4]. **Recently evidence suggests that**
94 **upfront MRI and targeted biopsy (TB) detect more sPC, while decreasing**
95 **detection of low-risk PC [2–5].** Subsequently, mpMRI **is recommended** prior to
96 prostate biopsy [6,7]. This has led to debate whether TB alone is sufficient to accurately
97 diagnose sPC, or if additional systematic biopsies (SB) are still necessary [2–6,8].

98 One issue in this context is the high negative predictive value (NPV) of mpMRI, which
99 allows appropriate exclusion of sPC in over 90% of cases, indicating that patients with
100 suspicious MRI lesions do not always require extensive SB in addition to the TB [9].
101 Bryk reported that the addition of six ipsilateral SB to TB significantly increased sPC
102 detection, while contralateral SB detected mainly insignificant disease [10]. This
103 elucidates the problem of potentially missing the most representative area within the
104 target and the so called “penumbra” [7]. Transrectal (TRUS) MRI/ultrasonography (US)
105 image fusion with 2–6 TB cores has been shown to detect up to 90% of sPC found at
106 radical prostatectomy (RP) specimen [11,12]. Within the PRECISION trial, four TB
107 cores outperformed a standard 10–12-core TRUS SB and comparable results have
108 been recently demonstrated for two TB [2,8]. Although TB alone has advantages,
109 especially for reducing the detection of Gleason grade group (GGG) 1 PC, this
110 approach may lead to an unacceptable proportion of missed sPC [3,13]. Calio et al.
111 reported that four TB cores predicted Gleason score at RP better than a single TB core
112 [14]. The transperineal Ginsburg MRI/TRUS-fusion biopsy protocol includes two TB
113 and an extended number of 18-24 SB cores [15]. Compared to this extended SB, two

114 TB cores alone detected 80% of sPC, suggesting that only two TB cores alone are
115 insufficient [12]. The addition of four perilesional cores (“focal saturation”) improved the
116 detection of sPC has been recently shown [4]. These results suggest that SB may be
117 reduced if the lesion and adjacent tissue are adequately sampled.

118 The aim of this study is to analyse the sPC detection rate of a target saturation (TS)
119 biopsy approach with 9-10 cores compared to TB and SB.

120 **2. Patients and methods**

121 122 2.1 Patient cohort

123 Consecutive patients were prospectively enrolled at University Hospital Essen
124 between 2016-2018. Institutional review board approval was obtained (19-
125 TEMP579281-BO) and all subjects provided written informed consent. **213** men
126 without previous treatment or diagnosis of PC underwent 3T mpMRI and transperineal
127 saturation biopsy with additional MRI-targeted cores in case of MRI-suspicious lesions,
128 including **132** biopsy-naive patients with elevated prostate specific antigen (PSA)-
129 levels and/or suspicious digital rectal examination (DRE) and **82** with previously
130 negative TRUS-biopsy. Subgroups of this cohort were reported previously [16].

131 **Inclusion criterion was a PI-RADS Version v2.0 guidelines-conform mpMRI prior**
132 **to MRI/TRUS-fusion biopsy [17].**

133 134 2.2 Imaging

135 Two 3T MR scanners (Magnetom Prisma and Biograph mMR, Siemens Healthcare,
136 Erlangen, Germany) with a body coil (Supplementary Material 1) [17]. **The protocol**
137 **was concordant with Prostate Imaging Reporting and Data System (PI-RADS) v2**
138 **guidelines [17].**

139 Image reporting was performed by an expert urologist (AW, 10 years of
140 experience in prostate MRI) unblinded to clinical data [17].

141 Lesions were reported using a 27-regions form-sheet [17]. The contours of PI-RADS
142 2–5 lesions were drawn on the MIM platform (MIM Symphony Inc., Cleveland, Ohio,
143 USA).

144

145 2.3 MRI/TRUS-fusion biopsy:

146 The MIM MRI/TRUS-fusion biopsy system was used for all biopsies. All men had in
147 median 24 SB cores according to the Ginsburg protocol [15]. Depending on the
148 prostate volume, additional basal cores for larger prostates were taken using a
149 customized software that calculates spatial organ coverage by biopsy-cores [18]. Grid-
150 directed transperineal sector-biopsy under general anesthesia is the standard
151 technique at our centre. Two to four TB cores were taken from each lesion prior to SB
152 cores. All procedures were done by one of two urologists with 1-4 years of experience
153 of transperineal fusion biopsy. The operator had access to all mpMRI data with
154 radiologist-marked lesions of interest. All targets were sampled under live TRUS-
155 visualisation. TB and SB cores were potted and reported separately.

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157 2.4 Pathological work-up:

158 A dedicated uropathologist (HR, 12-year of experience) performed the
159 histopathological assessment [19]. sPC was defined as Gleason Score \geq 3+4,
160 equivalent to GGG 2–5 [19]. (Supplementary Material 2).

161

162 2.5 Data analysis, definition and calculation of Target Saturation

163 Data were collected as per START guidelines [20]. Different biopsy templates were
164 defined as follows:

165 i) SB: 24 systematic cores

166 ii) TB: 2-4 targeted cores

167 iii) TS was calculated from the four targeted cores from the target lesion plus
168 cores from the adjacent SB sectors (Ginsburg protocol) resulting in 9-10 TS
169 cores (Figure 1).

170 This scheme is slightly different from Hansen et al., where transperineal biopsies
171 based on the Ginsburg scheme were also used, but 10-16 cores were applied to the
172 target [13,15].

173

174 2.6 Statistical analysis:

175 Patient, MRI and biopsy data were analysed descriptively (Table 1).

176 To evaluate the magnitude of differences in detection rates among the different biopsy
177 approaches for low-risk PC and sPC, we calculated rate differences along with 95%
178 confidence intervals, according to Tango and performed McNemar`s-tests [21].

179 Potential predictors for favourable performance of TS over TB were calculated by
180 logistic regression analysis. All tests were two-sided with a significance level of
181 5%. Bonferroni-Holm correction was used for multiple testing.

182 Statistical analyses were performed using R version 3.5.0 (R Foundation for Statistical
183 Computing, Vienna, Austria), SPSS version 22 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA) and MedCalc
184 version 14 (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium). Reporting followed Standards of
185 Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy [22].

186

187 **3. Results:**

188

189 Demographics, baseline statistics, MRI and biopsy data of the **all** patients are listed in

190 Table 1. In summary, 432 lesions occurred on mpMRI. 210 lesions (47%) were PI-

191 RADS 3, 37% PI-RADS 4 and 12% PI-RADS 5. 131 (59%) of men harboured PC, 88

192 (40%) of which had sPC.

193 The results of the different PI-RADS lesions **on lesion- and patient-basis** according

194 to non-PC, PC and sPC are in Table 2. Results of SB, TB and TS to detect low-risk

195 PC and sPC are stratified to different PI-RADS lesions. Importantly, the sPC detection

196 rate of TS was superior to TB for PI-RADS 4 lesions (100% vs. 85%, **p=0.007**),

197 whereas the detection rate was comparable for bigger PI-RADS 5 lesions (100% vs.

198 92%, **p=0.13**). As compared to SB, the detection rate of TS was higher for PI-RADS 4

199 (81%, **p<0.001**) and PI-RADS 5 lesions (82%,**p=0.008**). **For PI-RADS 3 lesions, the**

200 **detection rates were comparable between the biopsy approaches: 93% for TS**

201 **and SB (p=1) versus 86% for TB (p=1).**

202 On a per-lesion level, TS detected 99% of the 134 sPC, which was significantly more

203 than TB (87%, p=0.001) and SB (82%, p<0.001) (Table 3). Detection rates of SB and

204 TB were comparable (p=1). SB detected significantly more low-risk cancers than TS

205 (99% vs. 84%, p=0.02) and TB (99% vs. 65%, p<0.001).

206 On a per-patient level, TS detected 99% men with sPC and was significantly in favour

207 compared to both SB (81%, p=0.001) and TB (89%, p=0.03). Low-risk cancer detection

208 was lower for TB than SB (p=0.01) (Table 3). TS detected more GGG 1 PC than TB

209 (p=0.06). **Substratifications for different PI-RADS scores on patient-level are in**

210 **Table 2B.**

211 Subgroup analyses of detection rates for biopsy-naïve men and those after previous
212 negative biopsy are presented in Table 3.

213 **We also analyzed potential clinical and radiological predictors for beneficial**
214 **applying TS compared to TB for detection of GGG \geq 2 PC (Table 4). Only PSA was**
215 **a significant predictor. Besides this, we give information on the detection rate of**
216 **the different biopsy approaches for men with only one PI-RADS lesion and a**
217 **flow-chart with a potential clinical decision pathway based on clinical and**
218 **radiological findings (Supplementary Material 3 and 4). Clinical parameters of**
219 missed lesions by each biopsy approach are in Table 5.

220

221 **4. Discussion:**

222 We demonstrate that a TS approach detected significantly more sPC compared to an
223 extended SB and a TB approach on a per-lesion- and per-patient analysis, as
224 proposed in the PI-RADSV2.1 guidelines, [7].

225 TB detected 87% sPC, as compared to the gold-standard of combined SB and TB.

226 Of note, the detection rate using a four-core TB with a rigid fusion-biopsy was higher
227 than previously reported [10,23,24]. Using prostatectomy specimen as reference
228 standard, the detection rate was comparable with a rate of 80% by our group and 82%
229 by Ahdoot et al. [8,12]. However, the detection rate (87%) was lower than that reported
230 by Calio et al. (94%) using a four-core TB approach [14]. One reason for our detection
231 rate might be that only highly-experienced surgeons participated in our study, whereas
232 less-experienced surgeons performed biopsy in other reports [12,23]. **When more**
233 **experienced surgeons perform biopsies the detection rate improves** [25].
234 Importantly, missing the lesion on TB led to misclassification of sPC in 10% of men on
235 a patient-level.

236

237 **Despite the good results of TB only, targeting errors exist as demonstrated by**
238 **the significant superiority of TS to detect sPC.** On a per-lesion basis, the calculated
239 TS approach detected 99% of sPC, compared to SB+TB. Our TS biopsy approach was
240 similar to the one reported by Hansen et al., as shown by comparable detection rates
241 [23]. Thus, one might conclude that in order to achieve an optimal detection rate for
242 sPC, target saturation is needed.

243 Our TS approach, whichh includes four targeted cores plus 5-6 biopsies from the
244 adjacent prostate, detects nearly all sPC and reduces total biopsy core numbers from
245 a median of 33 to 9-10, depending on the number of suspicious lesions.

246 **When the detection rates are analysed in detail (Tables 2, 3, 5 and**
247 **Supplementary Material 3, 4), the PI-RADS score is important, as big lesions (i.e.**
248 **PI-RADS 5) might need fewer cores because they are easier to target, whereas**
249 **smaller lesions (i.e. PI-RADS 3 and 4) might suffer more from fusion errors and**
250 **require a more extensive saturation of the target. However, on regression**
251 **analysis, only the PSA-level was a significant predictor and neither PI-RADS**
252 **score, nor DRE. Nevertheless, from a clinical point of view, in case of positive**
253 **DRE and a PI-RADS 5 lesion, TB alone is sufficient (Supplementary Material 4).**
254 **Beside this, TS is the favourable approach in PI-RADS 3 and 4 lesions (Table 2).**
255 **TS (97%) was also in favour as compared to TB (84%) and SB (78%) for men with**
256 **a solitary PI-RADS lesion. This was significant as compared to SB (p=0.04), but**
257 **not to TB (p=0.13). Lastly, the proposed TS method is also in favour for anterior**
258 **and smaller lesions. This is proven by the fact that missed lesions on TB are**
259 **small (median 0.5 ml) and anteriorly located in 47% (Table 5). As only one lesion**
260 **is missed by TS, the detection rates of >90% for the TS approach for those**
261 **anterior, small or PI-RADS 3 and 4 lesions are comparable with previous**
262 **literature [23].**

263 This is in line with the PI-RADSV2.1 guidelines , recommending to target both the lesion
264 and the perilesional 'penumbra'. The concept that lesion size on MRI is underestimated
265 compared to prostatectomy is also supported by other studies [12,26,27]. In

266 conclusion, all ‘target saturation biopsy methods’ are effective in overcoming potential
267 targeting errors by surgeons or fusion-software and lesion size underestimation on MRI
268 [23].

269 While the present study supports a TS biopsy approach for accurate detection of sPC,
270 the role of the different approaches to detect low-risk PC should be also discussed.
271 Applying TS would reduce the diagnosis of low-risk PC. As compared to SB, **10%** of
272 low-risk PC lesions would not have been detected by TS. **This rate is comparable to**
273 **the PRECISION trial (9% reduction) [2].**

274 A reduction to a TS template could safely replace the standard 20–26-core Ginsburg
275 template [15]. As transperineal saturation biopsies are usually performed under
276 general anaesthesia, a reduction to TS could also facilitate the biopsy procedure under
277 local anaesthesia.

278 Regarding overall quality of MRI, detection rate of sPC in PI-RADS 3 lesions has
279 become a surrogate parameter for experienced reading. In our cohort, the sPC
280 detection rate in PI-RADS 3 was 7%, and therefore comparable to Ullrich et al., (6%)
281 and the PRECISION trial (12%), with comparable population characteristics [2,28].
282 However, we certainly acknowledge the high number of PI-RADS 3 lesions, which are
283 currently being addressed in order to be able to spare more men biopsy at all.

284 Our study has some limitations. **First, this is a retrospective single-centre analysis**
285 **and the results need further confirmation in a prospectivemulticenter study, to**
286 **investigate the detection rate of the TS approach in a head-to-head comparison.**
287 **Another limitation is that TS biopsies have been calculated from TB and SB. The**
288 **results should be confirmed by analysing TS versus TB and SB prospectively.**

289 **Third, the applicability to other cohorts using a transrectal route may be limited by the**
290 **administered transperineal biopsy route. Extrapolating TS results to compare**
291 **combined TB and 12-core TRUS SB cohorts is hypothetical because of the lack**
292 **of direct comparison.** Most recently, Ahdoot et al. **found a 90% detection rate of**
293 **such an approach as compared to RP specimen [8]. As TS detected 99% of sPC**
294 **as compared to combined TB and extended SB, that in turn was comparable to**
295 **RP pathology, one might suggest a detection rate increase in 5-10% compared**
296 **to TB and conventional TRUS-biopsy [12].**

297 **We** did not assess the interobserver-variability for PI-RADS as previously reported
298 [29].

299 **Cost-effectiveness is another limitation.** For this study, all MRIs had been performed
300 for the MRI/TRUS-fusion biopsy, and cost-effectiveness of diagnostic MRI has been
301 recently suggested [30].

302 **We analysed only men with PI-RADS \geq 3 lesions. While this is necessary for an**
303 **intra-lesion analysis of different biopsy-approaches, this may limit**
304 **generalizability for men without PI-RADS lesions.**

305 **We also emphasize that the results of our study might not be generalizable to**
306 **cohorts and centres without experienced radiologists and surgeons.**

307 Lastly, a limitation of this study is the lack of RP specimens as reference standard.
308 However, this design allowed us to include all men in the analysis and not only those
309 who had PC. In addition, our group has recently demonstrated that TB combined with
310 SB according to the Ginsburg protocol detected sufficiently sPC in 97% of cases, as
311 compared to RP specimen [12].

313 **5. Conclusion**

314 The TS approach detected significantly more sPC compared to TB and extended SB.
315 Given that each 99% of sPC lesions and men harboring sPC were identified by TS
316 alone, **our findings suggest** omitting SB cores without compromising sPC detection,
317 particularly in PI-RADS 4 lesions.

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320 **Conflict of interest:**

321 All authors of this manuscript indicate no conflicts of interest for the present work.

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- 441
- 442

443 **Table legends:**

444

445 Table 1:

446 Demographic, MRI and histopathologic results of the study population according to

447 START criteria

448

449 Table 2:

450 **Histological biopsy outcomes of different PI-RADSv2 Likert scores on a A) per-**

451 **lesion level and B) on per-patient level**

452

453 Table 3:

454 Results of McNemar`s tests for the comparison of detection rates for different biopsy

455 approaches for a) lesion-based analysis and b) patient-based analysis including

456 Confidence intervals according to Tango [21]

457

458 **Table 4:**

459 **Clinical parameters of missed significant PC lesions by each biopsy approach**

460

461 Table 5:

462 Clinical parameters of missed lesions by each biopsy approach

463

464 Supplementary Material 1:

465 Exemplary protocol of prostate mpMRI performed at Siemens Biography mMR

466

467 Supplementary Material 2:

468 Histopathologic details on fixation and reported parameters per lesion

469

470 Supplementary Material 3:

471

472

473 Supplementary Material 4:

474

475

476 **Figure legends:**

477 Figure 1:

478 Ginsburg scheme for prostate biopsy including 24 systematic cores and four targeted
479 cores (blue)[15]. Template for Target saturation is given in red, including the
480 combination of four targeted cores and 5 cores from the Ginsburg template.