**Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia**

Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) is the most common type of tumor in mature men. It is a benign growth, which means it may enlarge but will not spread to other locations in the body. The tumor can cause discomfort and may grow to completely close the bladder neck, preventing urination. This condition occurs because the tumor usually grows in the transitional zone and urethral tissue, causing difficulty in stopping urination.

**Early BPH:**
Narrowing of the prostate urethra causing difficulty in starting, maintaining, and stopping urination.

**Prostatitis:**
Prostatitis is an uncomfortable condition in which the prostate becomes inflamed and swollen due to an infection. Prostatitis can make urinating painful.

**Pathway for Plexiform Venous Arborizations**

**Normal Prostate (sagittal section)**

**Posterior View (dissected)**

**Anterior View with Exposed Prostatic Urethra**

**Superior View (transverse section)**

**Zones of the Prostate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Central zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Fibromuscular zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Transitional zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Peripheral zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Periprostatic gland region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What is the Prostate?**

The prostate is a gland consisting of fibrous, muscular, and glandular tissue surrounding the urethra below the urinary bladder. Its function is to secrete prostatic fluid as a medium for semen, helping it to reach the female reproductive tract. Within the prostate, the urethra is joined by two ejaculatory ducts. During sexual activity, the prostate acts as a valve between the urethra and reproductive tracts. This enables semen to ejaculate without mixing with urine. Prostatic fluid is delivered by the coordination of muscles around gland tissue. Nerve and hormonal influences control the secretory and muscular functions of the prostate.

**What regions of the prostate are affected by BPH?**

- **Peripheral zone:** Located at the prostate base near the bladder neck.
- **Transitional zone:** Located posterior to the Peripheral zone.
- **Central zone:** Located anterior to the Peripheral zone.

**Pathway for Plexiform Venous Arborizations**

**Prostate Cancer**

Prostate carcinoma is the most common malignant tumor in men. Unlike BPH, prostate cancer not only enlarges but also metastasizes (spreads) to other parts of the body. This disease is complicated by the simple transfer of cancer cells directly to other parts of the body through a local plexus of veins.

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