

assess MVD. Ten consecutive, non-overlapping high-power fields were analysed in a blinded fashion.

RESULTS

In all, 31 men received finasteride and 33 placebo; the groups were similar in patient age, resected prostate weight, preoperative catheterization, prostate-specific antigen level, aspirin use, spinal anaesthesia and postoperative diagnosis of prostate cancer. The mean (95% confidence interval) MVD

bleeding, as the prostates of men with BPH and haematuria have a significantly higher MVD in the suburethral portion than prostates of men with BPH alone [17]. Finasteride reduces the MVD in the suburethral portion of the prostate but not in the nodular portion in men undergoing TURP [7]. This provides insight into the effect and speed of action of finasteride on haematuria.

VEGF is an androgen-sensitive growth factor that controls angiogenesis. In the ventral prostates of rats, VEGF expression is down-regulated at 1 week after castration, while testosterone replacement induces VEGF synthesis, even after only 1 day [18]. Thus

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