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Health newsfeed for Thursday, October 24, 2013

HEADLINE: BPH

ANCHOR LEAD: Treating an enlarged prostate may soon get simpler, Elizabeth Tracey reports.

Enlargement of the prostate gland, known as benign prostatic hyperplasia or BPH, is very common as men age, and may produce some uncomfortable consequences. Mark Lessne, an interventional radiologist at Johns Hopkins, describes a new treatment that may help.

LESSNE: There's a fantastic collaboration between interventional radiology and urology in that this novel procedure for benign prostatic hyperplasia BPH, we're starting a trial randomizing patients to surgery, which is the traditional standard of care, and embolization, which is where we minimally invasively go on and cut off the blood supply to the prostate. It originated in Brazil, and we're part of a multicenter international trial that's just starting now. :23

Lessne says data from Brazil are very encouraging.

LESSNE: Results are looking at the patient's symptoms, frequency of urination, how difficult it is to urinate, and what they find is that with prostate embolization alone, most of these patients are improving without surgery. :11

At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.