

Prostate Cancer

Most prostate cancer begins in the gland cells in the prostate. Known as a silent killer because men often do not have symptoms in early stages, prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer other than skin cancer among men in the United States and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men. If prostate cancer is detected early and before the cancer spreads, patients have a nearly 100 percent chance of survival after five years. Survival rates for all stages of prostate cancer have increased since the 1990s, but stabilized in recent years.

Statistics

- **One in eight** men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime.
- **One in 41** men will die from the disease, making it the **second most common cause of cancer death** in men.
- In 2021, **248,530 new cases** of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, with **34,130 deaths**.
- In Texas, an estimated **15,459 new cases** of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in 2021, and **2,215 men will die** from the disease.

Risk Factors

- **Age:** Men age 65 and older account for about 60 percent of all prostate cancer cases diagnosed. The likelihood of developing prostate cancer increases after age 50.
- **Family History:** Men with close relatives (father or brother) who have had prostate cancer are more than twice as likely to develop the disease.
- **Race:** U.S. and Caribbean Black men have the highest prostate cancer incidence rate worldwide. Non-Hispanic Black men have an almost 80 percent higher rate of prostate cancer in the United States than Caucasians, for reasons that are unclear.
- **Genetic Factors:** A gene mutation on BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 or having Lynch syndrome may increase risk, but it is only a small percentage of cases.
- **Diet:** Men who consume high amounts of high-fat foods, dairy products, and few fruits and vegetables have a higher risk of prostate cancer.

Symptoms

The following may be symptoms of prostate cancer but could be linked to other health conditions. If these symptoms are present, men are encouraged to consult their physician for proper testing:

- Weak or interrupted urine flow
- Sudden urge to urinate
- Difficulty controlling urination
- Painful or burning urination
- Blood in urine or semen
- Pain or pressure in rectum
- Frequent pain or stiffness in spine, pelvis, hips, ribs, thighs, or other bones
- Difficulty having an erection
- Painful ejaculation
- Decrease in amount of fluid ejaculated
- Frequent urination, especially at night
- Difficulty fully emptying bladder
- Weakness or numbness in legs or feet
- Pain or discomfort when sitting
- Anemia

Prevention

- Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables. Soy, pomegranate, green tea, flaxseed, turmeric, and broccoli are rich in substances that may help prevent prostate cancer.
- Reduce consumption of foods high in fat or dairy.
- Regular exercise may decrease the risk of prostate cancer.
- Maintain a healthy body weight, as obesity can further complicate prostate cancer.

Screening

Men should discuss with their physicians the risks and benefits of prostate cancer screening to make an informed decision about testing. Most men should consider regular prostate screenings beginning at age 50. Men at high risk (African Americans and men whose father, brother, or son was diagnosed with prostate cancer before age 65) should consider testing beginning at age 45. Consider screening at age 40 if more than one first-degree relative was diagnosed at an early age. Prostate screenings can include the PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test and DRE (digital rectal exam).

Treatment Options

Prostate cancer may be treated by different members of the cancer care team. Treatment options vary depending on how advanced the cancer is and if it has spread to other body parts. Physicians will determine the most appropriate treatment for each patient, including surveillance, surgery, radiation therapy, proton therapy, hormone therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, vaccine treatment, bone-directed treatment, immunotherapy, cryotherapy, and palliative care.

About Texas Oncology

Texas Oncology is an independent private practice with more than 500 physicians and 210 locations across the state. Meeting the oncology needs of Texans for more than 35 years, the practice includes Texas Center for Proton Therapy, Texas Breast Specialists, Texas Oncology Surgical Specialists, Texas Urology Specialists, and Texas Center for Interventional Surgery. As a lead participant in US Oncology Research, Texas Oncology played a role in the development of more than 100 FDA-approved therapies. For more information, visit www.TexasOncology.com.

Sources: American Cancer Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology, National Cancer Institute, Prostate Cancer Foundation, and Texas Cancer Registry



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