

Prostate Cancer Statistics

General Information

Prostate cancer is to men what breast cancer is to women, with more than 16 million men and their families fighting the disease globally. While many advances in the field have been made, and men with prostate cancer are living longer, more productive lives, too many men still die and too many families still suffer.

- Prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in America, affecting 1 in 6 men.
- In 2012, nearly 242,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and more than 28,000 men will die from the disease. One new case occurs every 2.1 minutes and a man dies from prostate cancer every 18.6 minutes.
- It is estimated that there are more than 2 million American men currently living with prostate cancer.
- A non-smoking man is more likely to develop prostate cancer than he is to develop colon, bladder, melanoma, lymphoma and kidney cancers combined.

Risk Factors and Symptoms

- As men increase in age, their risk of developing prostate cancer increases exponentially. Although only 1 in 10,000 under age 40 will be diagnosed, the rate shoots up to 1 in 39 for ages 40 to 59, and 1 in 14 for ages 60 to 69. More than 65% of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over the age of 65.
- African American men are 60% more likely to develop prostate cancer compared to Caucasian men and nearly 2.5 times as likely to die from the disease.
- Men with a single first-degree relative—father, brother or son—with a history of prostate cancer are twice as likely to develop the disease, while those with two or more relatives are nearly four times as likely to be diagnosed. The risk is highest in men whose family members were diagnosed before age 65.
- If the cancer is caught at its earliest stages, most men will not experience any symptoms. Some men, however, will experience symptoms such as frequent, hesitant, or burning urination, difficulty in having an erection, or pain or stiffness in the lower back, hips or upper thighs.

How curable is prostate cancer?

As with all cancers, "cure" rates for prostate cancer describe the percentage of patients likely to remain disease-free for a specific time. In general, the earlier the cancer is caught, the more likely it is for the patient to remain disease-free.

Because approximately 90% of all prostate cancers are detected in the local and regional stages, the cure rate for prostate cancer is very high—nearly 100% of men diagnosed at this stage will be disease-free after five years. By contrast, in the 1970s, only 67% of men diagnosed with local or regional prostate cancer were disease-free after five years.