

Men's Health: Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer in American men, excluding non-melanoma skin cancers.

Prostate cancer develops from the cells of the prostate gland. Its most common form, occurring in almost 99 percent of cases, is called *prostatic adenocarcinoma*. Many men also experience a condition known as *prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia*, or PIN, which is a change in the microscopic appearance of prostate epithelial cells. PIN should be monitored on a yearly basis because it may lead to the development of prostate cancer. Prostate cancer grows relatively slowly, but may eventually spread to other parts of the body.

Risk Factors

All men should be aware of the risk factors for developing prostate cancer. While the exact causes of this disease are unknown, research has discovered various factors that contribute to a person's likelihood of developing prostate cancer.

- **Age** – The risk increases rapidly after the age of 50.
- **Race** – African-American men are twice as likely to

develop prostate cancer as Caucasian men.

- **Genetics** – The chance of getting the disease is more than doubled if a man has one close relative with prostate cancer. The risk is even higher when more than one family member has developed the illness, especially if it was at a young age.

Signs and Symptoms

Like most other forms of cancer, early detection of prostate cancer is the key to saving lives. There are often few symptoms in the early stages. Some possible early signs of the disease are:

- The slowing or weakening of the urinary stream
- The need to urinate more often

When the disease becomes more advanced, symptoms become more prevalent. Symptoms of advanced prostate cancer include:

- Blood in the urine
- Impotence

- Pain in the pelvis, spine, hips or ribs.

Survival Rate

Early detection can save lives. The survival rate for men whose cancer has not spread beyond the prostate is almost one hundred percent. Almost 92 percent of men with prostate cancer survive at least five years, and 67 percent survive at least 10 years. Survival rates depend on the treatment performed and on whether or not the cancer has spread. If the cancer has spread from the prostate, the five-year survival rate is 31 percent.



Did you know...?

The best way to prevent prostate cancer, or any cancer in general, is to eat right, exercise, keep your cholesterol in check, and stop smoking. Here's something to think about: the National Prostate Cancer Coalition affirms that there are studies which prove that nicotine interferes with chemotherapy.