

3 Essential Things to Know About Prostate Cancer

About one out of every eight men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point during their life. Yet, as common as prostate cancer is, many people still don't know a lot about it. Here are three key facts you should know.

1

The risk of having prostate cancer rises rapidly after age 50.

Age is the most common risk factor for this cancer, and more than two-thirds of new cases occur in men ages 65+. Black men or men who have a father or brother who developed the disease are at a greater risk.

2

Not every man needs to be tested for prostate cancer.

The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test measures how much PSA (a protein) is present in your blood. A high PSA level could be a sign of prostate cancer, but it might also be caused by a prostate infection, benign enlargement of the prostate or other noncancerous causes. Men should talk with their healthcare providers about whether PSA testing is right for them.

3

The outlook is excellent for most men with prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer can be life-threatening once it spreads to other parts of the body. But when it's caught early, the five-year relative survival rate is nearly 100%. The five-year survival rate for all stages of prostate cancer combined is 98%. This means that, on average, men with prostate cancer are nearly as likely as those without cancer to have long lives.