

Prostate Cancer Screening Recommendation

All men should be aware of prostate cancer and the current state of knowledge about prostate cancer screening. Men ages 50 years and older should discuss with their health care providers whether prostate cancer screening with the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test and/or digital rectal examination (DRE) is appropriate for them. Men in high-risk groups, such as African Americans and those with one or more affected first-degree relatives, should discuss screening with their health care providers beginning at age 40 years.

Screening asymptomatic men with PSA may detect prostate cancers at an earlier stage than prostate cancers diagnosed after symptoms occur. Currently, however, there is insufficient scientific evidence that treatment following early detection with PSA and/or DRE reduces prostate cancer mortality.

Although current evidence does not support a policy recommendation either for or against prostate cancer screening, individuals may wish to consider whether screening is appropriate for them. Screening involves both uncertain potential benefits and potential harms, and the decision for or against screening should be an informed one. At this time, therefore, the Advisory Committee supports collaborative provider-patient informed decision making.

Research on the effectiveness of prostate cancer screening continues. As it did five years ago, the Advisory Committee recommends that scientific evidence related to prostate cancer screening be re-examined in five years (2009). If, however, compelling evidence regarding screening effectiveness becomes available before the scheduled review, the Advisory Committee recommends immediate review of the current position statement.

ADOPTED: April 22, 2005