

Treating Prostate Cancer with Hormones

Prostate cancer can be treated in different ways. One form of treatment is hormone treatment.

What do hormones do?

Your testicles make male hormones. Prostate cancer uses these hormones to grow.

What does hormone treatment for prostate cancer do?

Hormone treatment is often used to treat prostate cancer that has spread. It can help to keep cancer cells from growing. It can also help with pain. Some men have hormone treatment to try to keep the cancer from coming back after surgery or radiation treatment.

Kinds of hormone treatment

There are two kinds of hormone treatment.

- **Surgery to remove the testicles.** This is called an **orchiectomy**. It stops the testicles from making male hormones. Male hormones can help the cancer cells grow.
- **Drugs** – There are many different drugs that stop the body from making male hormones. Some of these drugs are pills you take every day. Some drugs are shots that you get once in a while. Some men get pills and shots.



When prostate cancer has spread

Prostate cancer can spread to other parts of the body. If this happens, hormones usually control it for awhile, often for a few years. Even with this treatment, most prostate cancer will grow again. If this happens, your doctor may talk to you about other treatments that are being studied.

Questions to ask your doctor about hormone treatment.

- What kind of hormone treatment will I have?
- How will the treatment make me feel?
- How will the treatment affect my sex life?
- Will I need other treatments besides hormones?



Talking to your doctor about treatment

Writing down your questions before you talk to the doctor can help you remember them. It may also help to take a family member or friend with you.

How can I find out more about treatment for prostate cancer?

- Call the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237). The call is free.
- or**
- Call the West Virginia Prostate Cancer Initiative, a program of the West Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Program at 304-293-2370.

