

Treating Prostate Cancer with Surgery

Prostate cancer can be treated in different ways. One form of treatment is surgery. There are different kinds of surgery for prostate cancer.

Surgery for prostate cancer

Men with early prostate cancer that has not spread often have surgery. Here are some words your doctor may use to talk about different kinds of surgery.

- **Radical prostatectomy** – The doctor takes out all of the prostate and some lymph nodes.
 - When done through a cut in the abdomen, this is called a **retropubic prostatectomy**.
 - When done through a cut between the scrotum and the anus, this is called a **perineal prostatectomy**.
- **TURP** – The doctor cuts out the part of the prostate with the cancer. This is done with a tool put into the urethra.
- Sometimes the doctor takes out some lymph nodes before removing the prostate. This is to find out if the cancer has spread. If the cancer has spread, removing the prostate may **not** be the best treatment.

Questions to ask your doctor about surgery for prostate cancer.

- What kind of surgery will I have?
- How will I feel after the surgery?
- How will you help me if I have pain?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- When can I go back to doing the things I usually do?
- How will the surgery affect my sex life?
- Will the surgery cause any lasting changes?
- Will I need other treatment after the surgery?



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 bring a family member or friend with you.

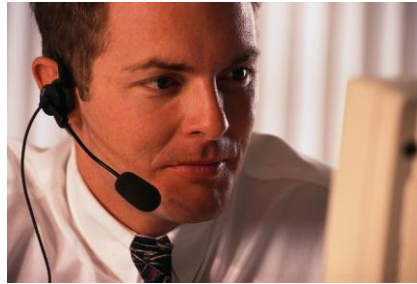


How can I find out more about treatment for prostate cancer?

- 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.



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