



Prostate Cancer

The following are some interesting facts about this disease

2011

- **Did you know that**
- Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in American men, second only to non-lethal skin cancer.
- In the average American family, the husband has a greater risk of developing prostate cancer, than the wife has of developing breast cancer.
- 240,890 men are forecast to be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year.
- 33,720 men are forecast to die from this disease this year.
- Every 15 minutes, 24/7, a man dies from prostate cancer.
- 1 out of every 6 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime.
- 1 out of every 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.
- Men have a 33% higher rate of being diagnosed with prostate cancer than women have of being diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Men have a higher death rate from prostate cancer than women have from breast cancer.
- NCI provide 52.4% less funding for prostate cancer research than for breast cancer research.
- The 5-year survival rate approaches 100% if prostate cancer is detected in the early stage.
- The 5-year survival rate drops to 30% if prostate cancer spreads to other parts of the body.
- Prostate cancer usually has no symptoms in the early stages and there are no self tests for this disease.
- Approximately 2.4 million men are living in the USA today with a history of prostate cancer.
- African American men have the highest prostate cancer incident rates in the world.
- African American men have a prostate cancer mortality rate that is twice as high as that of the white male population in the USA.

All of the above information is from the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) documents. These documents are available at www.cancer.org and www.cancer.gov.

Many cancer research centers and advocacy groups suggest that every man consider having a prostate cancer test at age 40 to establish a baseline for future reference. Men with a family history of prostate cancer and African American men should consider having this test at age 35. The basic prostate cancer test consists of a simple blood test called a PSA (prostate-specific antigen) and a DRE (digital rectal exam). Both of these simple tests can be conducted in the local doctor's office.

Did you know that 49 states now mandate that breast cancer screenings are covered by insurance, but only 28 states and the District of Columbia currently mandate that insurance companies provide coverage for routine prostate cancer screening? In California, your insurance company or Medicare covers the cost of these prostate cancer tests, with the usual co-pay, for men who are in the eligibility zone for testing.