

Womack ARMY MEDICAL CENTER Prostate Screening

Q&A

Is screening right for you?

The decision is yours. There are medical experts who believe some men should be offered a regular screening test for prostate cancer.

What is prostate cancer?

Prostate cancer is made up of cells that do not grow normally. The cells divide and create new cells that the body does not need, forming a mass of tissue called a tumor. These abnormal cells sometimes spread to other parts of the body, multiply and cause death.

What causes prostate cancer?

As with many types of cancers, med-

ical experts do not know what causes cancer. They are studying several possible causes.

Can prostate cancer be prevented?

Medical experts do not know how to prevent prostate cancer. But they are studying many factors.

How common is prostate cancer?

For the general population, a man in his lifetime has about a 16 percent chance (1 in 6) of being diagnosed with prostate cancer, 3 percent chance (1 in 33) of dying from prostate cancer. The older you are, the greater the risk for getting

prostate cancer.

Who is at increased risk for prostate cancer?

While all men are at risk for prostate cancer, some unhealthy-lifestyle factors increase risk.

Is prostate cancer serious?

Some prostate cancers become a serious threat to health by growing quickly, spreading beyond the prostate gland to other parts of the body, and causing death. Other types of prostate cancer grow slowly and may never cause one any problems.

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