When you think about testing for prostate cancer, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I want to find prostate cancer early?
- If I choose to be treated, can I live with the side effects if they occur?
- Can I accept that I might not be helped by treatment?

Discuss these questions with your doctor. Then, you decide if testing is the right choice for you.

For cancer information, answers, and support, call your American Cancer Society 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-227-2345.

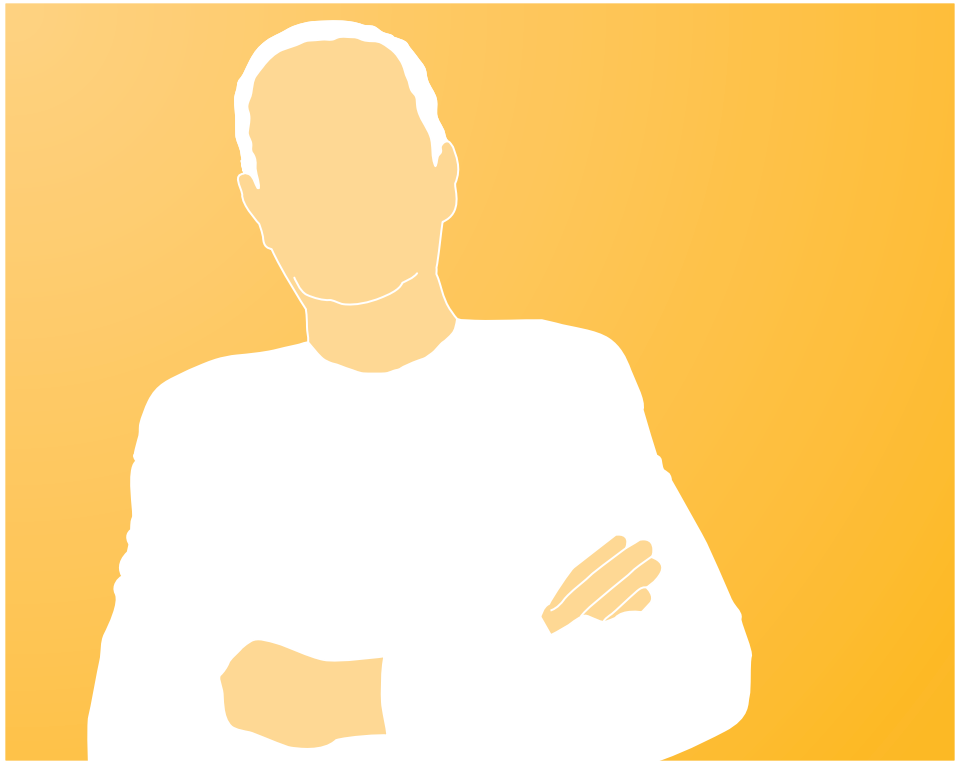
American Cancer Society®

We **save lives** and create more birthdays by helping you stay well, helping you get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.

cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345 | 1.866.228.4327 (TTY)

©2010, American Cancer Society, Inc.
No.265000

What You Should Know about Prostate Cancer Testing



THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF BIRTHDAYS.®

American Cancer Society®

Prostate cancer affects many men. There are tests to find it early.

If you are concerned about prostate cancer, or if it is time for you to think about testing, talk with your doctor. Learn about the possible benefits and risks of testing. Then decide if testing is the right choice for you. Have this talk with your doctor starting at age 50. If you are African American or have this cancer in your family, talk to your doctor starting at age 45.

If you are having blood in your urine, pain or difficulty passing urine, or trouble having an erection, see your doctor now. These could be symptoms of prostate cancer. They could also be caused by other diseases, too. The only way to know for sure is to see a doctor.

What experts know about prostate cancer testing and treatment:

- Testing for prostate cancer is done with the PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test with or without a rectal exam.
- Testing will find this cancer earlier than if no testing is done.
- Testing is not perfect. Some men with increased PSA in their blood may not have prostate cancer. And some men with prostate cancer may have a PSA level that is not increased.
- Not all prostate cancers are the same. Many grow slowly and do not cause any harm. Some grow fast and cause serious health problems or death.
- The treatments for prostate cancer can have side effects. There can be problems passing urine, problems with your bowels, and/or problems having sex.

What experts do not know about prostate cancer testing and treatment:

- If testing finds prostate cancer, it is not clear which men will have a cancer that will be a threat to their health or cause death.
- If testing finds prostate cancer, it is not clear which men will have a cancer that will not affect their health.
- It is not known which men will do well with treatment.
- It is not known which men will do well with no treatment.

If you are concerned about prostate cancer, or if it is time for you to think about testing, talk with your doctor. After this talk, decide if testing is the right choice for you.