

Male Reproductive Cancers Fact Sheet

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SOURCES:

National Cancer Institute

- ❖ [General information about penile cancer](#)

National Cancer Institute

- ❖ [What you need to know about prostate cancer](#)

National Cancer Institute

- ❖ [Prostate-specific antigen \(PSA\) test](#)
- ❖ [General information about testicular cancer](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- ❖ [Prostate cancer](#)

What is cancer?

- ❖ Cancer occurs when cells in the body grow out of control.
- ❖ Cancers are named for the part of the body where they start.



What are reproductive cancers?

- ❖ Reproductive cancers start in the organs related to reproduction (sex).
- ❖ The most common reproductive cancers in men are:
 - o Penile (PEE-nile)—begins in the penis, part of the external genitals.
 - o Testicular (tes-TIH-kyuh-ler)—begins in the testicles, the two egg-shaped glands near the base of the penis that make sperm.
 - o Prostate (PROS-tayt)—begins in the prostate, a gland that surrounds the urethra (the tube that empties the bladder).



What are the early symptoms of reproductive cancers?

- ❖ Each type of reproductive cancer has different symptoms.
 - o Penile—Redness, discomfort, a sore or a lump on the penis.
 - o Testicular—Pain, discomfort, a lump or swelling in the testicle, aching in the lower abdomen (belly).
 - o Prostate—Weak flow of urine, blood in urine, pain in the back, hips, or pelvis (lower belly between the hips), needing to pass urine often.
- ❖ It's important to see a health care provider if you have any of these symptoms.
- ❖ Sometimes cancer causes no symptoms and is found because of a lab test that is not normal.



Are there tests to screen for reproductive cancers?

- ❖ Health care providers use screening tests to find a disease before the person has any symptoms.
- ❖ There are no screening tests for testicular or penile cancer. It's important for men to see a health care provider about any symptoms. Finding cancers early increases the chance of success.
- ❖ There are two screening tests for prostate cancer:



- o prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test—blood test for PSA, a protein made by the prostate gland. Prostate cancer can increase the PSA level. Conditions that are not cancerous can also increase the PSA.
 - o Rectal exam—the health care provider inserts a gloved finger into rectum to check for lumps in the prostate
- ❖ Health care providers use diagnostic tests to find cancers in people who have symptoms.
- ❖ The tests used to find reproductive cancers depend on the type. These tests include:
 - o Lab tests—blood tests that sometimes show signs of cancer.
 - o Ultrasound test—imaging test that helps doctors “see” inside the body.
 - o Biopsy—procedure where small pieces of tissue are taken to check for cancer.



How are reproductive cancers treated?

- ❖ The treatment depends on the type of cancer.
- ❖ Reproductive cancers are often treated with surgery, chemotherapy (medicine to kill cancer cells), hormone therapy (medicine to block hormones that are related to cancer growth), or radiation.
- ❖ One or more of these treatments may be used together.
- ❖ An oncologist (cancer doctor) can help you select the right treatment.

