

Prostate Cancer

The prostate is a walnut sized gland that surrounds the urethra at the base of the bladder. Risk of cancer increases based on family history and advancing age. Most prostate tumors are adenocarcinomas. Another form of tumors seen in the prostate gland is sarcoma, which has a worse prognosis. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. In terms of cancer deaths in men, prostate cancer ranks second (lung cancer being first). About 75% of men in their 80s have cancer at biopsy. Currently available screening tests are prostate specific antigen (PSA) and digital rectal exam (DRE). PSA is a tumor marker specific to the prostate. The “normal” range varies with age. However, these ranges have been questioned and may miss a large proportion of cancers. In underwriting, prostate cancer is assessed by stage and grade. Stage refers to the extent of the cancer (tumor size and/or spread). The Gleason system grades the aggressiveness of the tumor from 2 to 10. The higher the Gleason score the more likely a tumor will spread beyond the gland to other sites. Gleason 2-4 is non-aggressive while Gleason 8-10 is aggressive. Treatment most often consists of prostate resection (called a radical prostatectomy) or radiation. Hormonal treatment is offered to elderly men, for metastatic disease, or to men with poor health. Localized low grade prostate cancer is sometimes not treated but followed with close observation. This fourth treatment option is often referred to as “watchful waiting.” PSA levels are followed after treatment of cancer. A rising PSA suggests that a tumor is currently present and a persistently low PSA suggests successful control.

1. Please list date when first diagnosed _____

2. How was the cancer treated?

Observation only _____

TURP (transurethral prostatectomy) _____

Radical prostatectomy _____

Radiation therapy (seed implant or external beam radiation) _____

Hormone therapy _____

Other, (specify) _____

3. Is your client on any medications?

Yes (details) _____

4. What stage was the cancer?

5. What was the Gleason score?

6. Please give the date and result of the most recent PSA test:

7. What was the PSA prior to treatment?

8. Does your client have any other major health problems (ex: heart disease, etc.)?

Yes (details) _____