

SURGERY



About Prostate Cancer®

WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING A SURGICAL TREATMENT OPTION? Not all prostate cancers are life-threatening and require active treatment. A man should discuss his case in detail with his urologist to determine whether active treatment is necessary, or whether surveillance may be an option. Choosing the right treatment is an individual decision and no one treatment is perfect for every man. You should consider the following:

- **YOUR OVERALL HEALTH STATUS**
- **YOUR VALUES AND PREFERENCES**
- **YOUR CANCER STAGE AND GRADE**
- **YOUR LIFE EXPECTANCY**

WHO IS A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR PROSTATE CANCER SURGERY? Surgery remains the primary option for many men with localized prostate cancer. A radical prostatectomy is the surgical removal of the entire prostate, the seminal vesicles, the tissue immediately surrounding them, and some of their associated pelvic lymph nodes. Prostate cancer may be scattered throughout the prostate gland in an unpredictable way, thus, the entire prostate must be removed to ensure that no cancer cells are left behind.

WHAT ARE THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR PROSTATE CANCER?

RETROPUBIC OPEN RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY is surgery that removes the prostate through an incision in the lower abdomen or behind the pubic bone. The prostate gland and lymph nodes can be removed at the same time, reducing blood loss. This procedure allows the surgeon to better see and feel the neurovascular bundles. If they are cancer-free the doctor can preserve them, allowing for maintenance of sexual function.

PERINEAL OPEN RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY is typically a shorter surgery that removes the prostate through an incision between the anus and the scrotum. Bleeding is

uncommon due to smaller incisions and men may experience less pain. The pelvic lymph nodes cannot be removed through the same incision as the prostate gland and nerve sparing is difficult, which may lead to an increased risk of erectile dysfunction.

ROBOTIC-ASSISTED PROSTATECTOMY is a minimally-invasive surgical procedure using computer and robotic technology to remove the prostate gland through several 1-2-inch incisions in the patient's abdomen. The surgeon operates a surgical robotic system, which holds surgical instruments and a camera to remove the prostate through laparoscopic access. Patients experience less pain, reduced blood loss and faster recovery time due to smaller incisions. Nerve sparing is possible so sexual function is maintained. However, the technology may not be found in every medical center. The most important factors in the success of the surgery are likely to be the skill and experience of your surgeon.

LAPAROSCOPIC PROSTATECTOMY is a form of minimally-invasive surgery in which the surgeon makes six 1-inch incisions, with one being slightly larger in order to extract the prostate from the abdomen. Surgical instruments and a camera are inserted through these small incisions. This procedure is less traumatic and men experience less pain and scarring because of the smaller incisions. Recovery time may be quicker and nerve-sparing is possible so sexual function is maintained. However, a patient may experience bladder control problems for a longer period of time.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AFTER SURGERY?

The main benefit of surgery is the removal of the entire prostate and your cancer. However, if the cancer has already spread, then removing the prostate may not cure your cancer and additional treatments may be needed. Consult with your doctor and medical team about which treatment is right for you.

www.KnowYourStats.org



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