



CANCER AUSTRALIA

Prostate and Testicular Cancer

Definition

- Prostate cancer occurs when cells within the prostate grow and divide abnormally and a tumour grows in the prostate. Prostate cancer cells can be very slow growing and not cause any problems or symptoms, and may not become life-threatening. In other cases, the cancer cells can grow more rapidly and may spread to other parts of the body.
- Testicular cancer occurs when cells within the testis grow and divide abnormally.

Incidence and mortality

- Prostate cancer became the most common type of newly diagnosed cancer in Australia in 2003. In 2006 it accounted for 16.7 per cent of all new cancer cases.
- There were 17,444 new cases of prostate cancer in 2006, accounting for 29.5 per cent of cancer in males.
- In 2006, the lifetime risk of males developing prostate cancer is 1 in 7 before the age of 75 and 1 in 5 before the age of 85.
- In 2007, prostate cancer accounted for 7.4 per cent of all cancer deaths in Australia.
- There were 2,938 deaths from prostate cancer in 2007, accounting for 13 per cent of cancer deaths in men.
- The lifetime risk of a male dying from prostate cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 104.
- In 2006, there were 625 new cases of testicular cancer, accounting for 0.6 per cent of all cancers and 1.1 per cent of cancers in males.
- In 2006, the lifetime risk of a male developing testicular cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 231.
- In 2007, 26 males in Australia died of testicular cancer. The lifetime risk of a male dying from testicular cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 6,563.

Trends

- The incidence rate of prostate cancer has increased over the last 20 years, however this may be reflective of an increase in PSA testing, increasing the detection of prostate cancer.
- Mortality rates associated with prostate cancer remained relatively stable from 1983 to 2005.
- Cancer of the testis (incidence and mortality) has remained low over the last 20 years, although incidence of testicular cancer is increasing.
- Prostate cancer incidence and mortality increases with age.

- Testicular cancer occurs across all ages, with higher incidence occurring between 20-40 years of age.

Relative survival

- Prostate and testicular cancers have high relative 5 year survivals.
- 97 per cent of males affected by testicular cancer and 85 per cent of men affected by prostate cancer will be alive 5 years after their diagnosis.

Risk factors

- There are several known risk factors for prostate cancer. Age is an important risk factor, as the incidence of prostate cancer increases with increasing age. Family history is another risk factor, with an increased risk in men who have more than one relative or first degree relative with prostate cancer or a family member diagnosed before the age of 60. Race can also influence the risk of prostate cancer.
- Risk factors for testicular cancer include age (from 15-40), being born with an undescended testicle, a family history of testicular cancer or a history of testicular cancer in the other testicle.

Sources: This factsheet draws on data published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, including in:

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010. Australia's Health 2010. Australia's health series no. 12. Cat. no. AUS 122. Canberra: AIHW.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Cancer Australia & Australasian Association of Cancer Registries 2008. Cancer survival and prevalence in Australia: cancers diagnosed from 1982 to 2004. Cancer series no. 42 Cat. no. CAN 38. Canberra: AIHW.
- www.aihw.gov.au/cancer/data/acim_books (viewed 15/11/2010) - 2006 incidence and 2007 mortality data.

The figures quoted relate to cancers C61-C62 as classified under the International Classification of Diseases (ICD – 10).

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