Ask a Radiation Oncologist:
Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer

RT Answers Facebook Live Event: September 29, 7:00 pm ET/4:00 pm PT

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- NRG Prostate & NCCN Panel
- MD: Vanderbilt University
- Residency: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Format for Tonight

- Panelists answer prepared questions
- Live questions from patients via Facebook
- Recording will be available (online)
Question #1

What is a Radiation Oncologist?
Question #2

How common is prostate cancer?
There has been some controversy regarding PSA screening -- what do you tell your patients about screening?
Once you (or a loved one) has undergone a biopsy and been diagnosed with prostate cancer, where should you get information about the diagnosis?
California Prostate Cancer Coalition (CPCC)
CPCC is pleased to endorse this important resource. We believe it to be the most understandable and comprehensive guide for men diagnosed with prostate cancer who want to really understand what the disease is about and what their specific treatment options are. prostatecalif.org

Malecare Cancer Support
Malecare Cancer Support group members know that nothing is more perplexing than prostate cancer treatment choice making. The NCCN Patient Guidelines provide an excellent starting point for discussion, particularly for African Americans who die from prostate cancer at twice the rate as Caucasian men. malecare.org

National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions (NASPCC)
NASPCC strongly endorses the NCCN Guidelines for Patients: Prostate Cancer, as an invaluable resource for patients and others. It is a reliable wealth of important information about prostate cancer, in a readable and understandable format. naspcc.org

National Prostate Cancer Awareness Foundation (PCaAware)
Guidelines for Patients plays a critical role in our outreach efforts to help men and their partners gain a better understanding of the need for men to be aware and pro-active when it concerns the subtle warning signs of early stage prostate cancer. Breaking down the “wall of silence” surrounding men and prostate cancer is our single mission. Success is achieved when men speak up, are engaged in their personal health and are not afraid to take action. Also, be sure to visit us on LinkedIn. pcaaware.org

Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF)
The Prostate Cancer Foundation is the world’s leading philanthropic organization dedicated to funding life-saving cancer research. The NCCN Guidelines for Patients: Prostate Cancer outlines essential information about diagnosis and treatment in a comprehensible format. It serves as a foundation of knowledge as patients and families begin to discuss options.

Urology Care Foundation
The Urology Care Foundation is the world’s leading nonprofit urological health foundation — and the official foundation of the American Urological Association. As an organization that strongly believes in providing prostate cancer patients, caregivers and those impacted by this disease the educational tools and resources necessary to make informed care and treatment decisions, we are pleased to endorse this NCCN Guidelines for Patients. urologyhealth.org

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network
Us TOO provides educational resources, support services, and personal connections to the prostate cancer community. This includes a network of more than 200 support groups across the country and abroad to help patients and caregivers make informed decisions on health care. The NCCN Guidelines for Patients: Prostate Cancer establish a baseline of credible medical expertise for prostate cancer health care providers and patients to practice shared decision-making on treatment options and management of side effects at all phases of the disease. ustoo.org

Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness
Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness commends the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) for developing the Patient Guidelines for use as the standard in education and awareness for prostate cancer patients and providers. On behalf of all Veterans, VPCAs thanks NCCN for providing this valuable tool to use as guidance on the journey through prostate cancer. vetsprostate.org

ZERO — The End of Prostate Cancer
Every 19 minutes a man loses his battle with prostate cancer. NCCN’s Guidelines for Patients is a premier resource in helping men and their families to be proactive and make informed decisions. By advancing research, encouraging action, and providing educational support, we can create Generation ZERO — the first generation of men free from prostate cancer. zero-cancer.org
Question #5

After a biopsy (and possibly an MRI), are there any additional tests someone should get once they’ve been diagnosed with prostate cancer?
So once you have all of these tests, how do you stage prostate cancer?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Primary tumor (T)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Localized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T1</strong></td>
<td>Tumor cannot be felt during digital rectal exam and is not found on imaging tests, but cancer is present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T2</strong></td>
<td>Tumor is felt during digital rectal exam and is found only in the prostate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T3</strong></td>
<td>Tumor has broken through outside layer of prostate. It may have grown into seminal vesicle(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T4</strong></td>
<td>Tumor has grown outside the prostate into nearby structures such as the bladder, rectum, pelvic muscles, and/or pelvic wall.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gleason Score / Grade Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guide 2</th>
<th>Grade Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1       | • Gleason score 6 or less  
|         | • Gleason pattern 1+3, 2+3, 3+3 |
| 2       | • Gleason score 7  
|         | • Gleason pattern 3+4 |
| 3       | • Gleason score 7  
|         | • Gleason pattern 4+3 |
| 4       | • Gleason score 8  
|         | • Gleason pattern 4+4, 3+5, 5+3 |
| 5       | • Gleason score 9 or 10  
|         | • Gleason pattern 4+5, 5+4, 5+5 |

Source: NCCN Patient Guide
Isn’t surgery more effective at treating early-stage prostate cancer?
Question #19

What are the types of radiation therapy?

What are ”seeds”?
Linear Accelerator

Brachytherapy
“Seeds”
Question #20

What are common side effects experienced during radiation therapy?

What about later, after treatment is over?
Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men. According to the American Cancer Society, one in every six men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. This year, approximately 174,500 men will be diagnosed. Prostate cancer is very manageable and often curable. More than 98 percent of men with prostate cancer will live more than ten years after diagnosis.

- Urinary frequency/urgency
- Straining to urinate
- Fatigue
- Rectal urgency

Possible side effects:

- Blood in stool
- Blood in urine
- Skin redness/irritation
- Hair loss in the treated area

More likely:

- Urinary frequency/urgency
- Rectal urgency
- Loose stools/diarrhea

Less likely:

- Erectile dysfunction (temporary or permanent)
- Rectal bleeding
- Urethral stricture

*Images shown are not comprehensive. Please ask your doctor about your specific diagnosis.*
Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer