

## Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Test *Yes or No?*

The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test looks for signs of prostate cancer in your blood. Use this decision tool to help you and your healthcare team decide whether or not to have a PSA test. Men usually consider this test when they are between 55 and 69 years old. Men of black race may have different risks.

Patient Questions	Having a PSA test	Not having a PSA test
<b>What does the test involve?</b>	This blood test measures the level of prostate specific antigen (PSA) in your blood. Discuss costs.	No blood test is done.
<b>Does a high PSA level mean I have cancer?</b>	High PSA levels can be due to many reasons, including infection. To check for cancer, you will likely have a sample taken from your prostate gland (a prostate biopsy).	You will not know your PSA level.
<b>Does a normal PSA test mean I do not have cancer?</b>	No, about 15 out of 100 men (15%) with a normal PSA level will have prostate cancer sometime in the next 15 years.	You will not know your PSA level.
<b>How many men will die from prostate cancer?</b>	Up to 6 out of 1,000 men (0.6%) will die from prostate cancer sometime in the next 15 years.	Up to 7 out of 1,000 men (0.7%) will die from prostate cancer sometime in the next 15 years.
<b>What are the benefits?</b>	Benefits are uncertain. You may be the 1 man in 1,000 (0.1%) who avoids death from prostate cancer.	You will avoid biopsies, having prostate cancer treatment, and the risks that come with having treatment.
<b>What are the risks?</b>	If your PSA level is high, you will likely have an outpatient prostate biopsy. About 3 out of 100 men (3%) will have a cancer that causes worry, but is unlikely to cause problems. Biopsies and treatments have risks.	You could be the 1 man in 1,000 (0.1%) who might have avoided death from prostate cancer sometime in the next 15 years.
<b>What are the risks of a prostate biopsy?</b>	Most men have pain or bleeding for a few days after a biopsy. Out of 100 men: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9 (9%) have infection including 1 (1%) needing emergency care</li> <li>● 7 (7%) have serious bleeding</li> <li>● 3 (3%) have problems peeing</li> <li>● 3 (3%) stay in the hospital for a problem after a biopsy</li> </ul>	You will avoid the risks of having a prostate biopsy.
<b>What are the risks (if testing leads to treatment of prostate cancer)?</b>	Out of 100 men treated for prostate cancer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● more than 60 (60%) will have problems with erections</li> <li>● about 20 (20%) will leak pee</li> </ul>	Out of 100 men not treated for prostate cancer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● up to 47 (47%) will have problems with erections</li> <li>● about 10 (10%) will leak pee</li> </ul>

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### Competing Interests

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