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**If prostate cancer is diagnosed at an early stage, it is potentially curable.**

**TREATMENT**

Treatment depends on how advanced the cancer is and the presence of other clinical factors that influence the state of health of the patient. Surgery, radiotherapy and hormone therapy are available and may be used in varying combinations depending on individual circumstances. Some cases of very slow growing tumours may require no active treatment apart from simple observation.

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**MONITORING**

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THE PROSTATE GLAND
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FUNCTION OF THE PROSTATE
Semen is composed of sperm (from the testes) and a mixture of fluids secreted by the seminal vesicles, bulbourethral glands and the prostate gland. A milky alkaline fluid, which neutralises the acidic environment of the vagina, semen is secreted by the prostate gland to impart maximum mobility to the sperm. The gland contains muscle fibres and contracts in rhythm with the vasa deferentia to help ejaculation.

PROSTATE SCREENING
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WHERE DO I GO FOR MY PSA BLOOD TEST
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TURNAROUND TIMES
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PROSTATE DISORDERS
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INFECTION
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Benign enlargement of the prostate is extremely common in men over 50 years of age, with 70% of men by the age of 60 and 90% by the age of 70 having the condition. As a result, your prostate becomes a bumpy, rubbery mass that can be felt via a rectal examination.

CANCER
Cancer of the prostate gland is very common, generally in men over the age of 50. Statistics indicate that it ranks among the most common cancer and cause of cancer death in men. The cause of prostate cancer is unknown; however, it often occurs along with the benign (non-cancerous) enlargement of the prostate gland. This is coincidental, since they are not believed to be related as cause and effect and men with benign prostatic enlargements do not necessarily indicate that it ranks among the most common cancer and cause of cancer death in men. The cause of prostate cancer is unknown; however, it often occurs along with the benign (non-cancerous) enlargement of the prostate gland. This is coincidental, since they are not believed to be related as cause and effect and men with benign prostatic enlargements do not necessarily develop cancer. It also appears that those men who undergo surgery for benign enlargement do not have a reduced or increased risk of cancer. Male sex hormones play a role in cancer growth. Drugs that reduce their levels or block their action are often used in the treatment of prostate cancer. In its early stages prostate cancer is usually an insidious, symptomless disease. Consequently it may not be discovered until it is quite advanced.
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*May 2009, Medicare Australia ruling.