

# CHEMOTHERAPY



About Prostate Cancer®

Often, chemotherapy is not the primary therapy for prostate cancer patients, but for men with advanced stages of prostate cancer, or whose cancer has metastasized, or spread from the prostate gland to other parts of the body.

## WHAT IS CHEMOTHERAPY FOR PROSTATE CANCER?

In contrast to surgery and radiation therapy that remove, destroy or damage cancer cells in a specific area, chemotherapy is a treatment in which drugs circulate throughout the body in the bloodstream and can kill any rapidly growing cells, including both cancerous and non-cancerous ones. Many chemotherapy drugs are administered directly into a vein through a catheter while others medications may be taken by mouth.

The most common side effects of chemotherapy are fatigue, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, hair loss, taste changes and a decrease in blood cell counts that result in an increased risk of infections. To minimize the side effects, chemotherapy drugs are carefully monitored according to the amount and number of times they are administered by your physician. Supportive medication is also given to further help offset the side effects caused by the drugs. Most side effects disappear once chemotherapy is stopped.

Not all prostate cancers require active treatment, and not all prostate cancers are life-threatening. The decision to proceed to active treatment is one that men should discuss in detail with their urologists to determine whether active treatment is necessary, or whether surveillance may be an option.

Choosing the right treatment for prostate cancer is an individual decision that patients should make together with their doctor. No one treatment is perfect for every man.

Talk to your doctor about which treatment is right for you.

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