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# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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What are the risk factors for prostate cancer, and who is at risk?

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What are the symptoms of prostate cancer?

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What is prostate cancer screening?

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How do I decide which treatment is best for me?

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What is erectile dysfunction (ED), and what happens if I have ED after treatment for prostate cancer?

## About Prostate Cancer *Second Edition*



by  
Pamela Ellsworth, MD

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# 100 Questions & Answers About Prostate Cancer

*Second Edition*

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<b><i>Part 1: The Basics</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
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**Questions 1–10** describe the anatomy and function of the prostate, introduces the concept of prostate specific antigen testing, and discusses some of the potential warning signs of prostate cancer:

- What is the prostate gland and what does it do?
- Do women have a prostate gland and PSA?
- What are the signs and symptoms of an enlarged prostate (either cancer-related or benign)?

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<b><i>Part 2: Prostate Cancer</i></b>	<b><i>11</i></b>
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**Questions 11–23** describe prostate cancer and address concerns about who is at risk for prostate cancer, including:

- What is prostate cancer?
- How common is prostate cancer?
- What are the risk factors for prostate cancer, and who is at risk? Is there anything that decreases the risk of developing prostate cancer?

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<b><i>Part 3: Evaluation for Prostate Cancer</i></b>	<b><i>31</i></b>
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**Questions 24–40** discuss how to screen for and detect prostate cancer:

- How do you detect prostate cancer?
- What is prostate cancer screening?
- Will my insurance cover prostate cancer screening and treatment?

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<b><i>Part 4: Prostate Cancer Staging</i></b>	<b><i>51</i></b>
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**Questions 41–45** describe how cancer is “staged” so that an appropriate treatment can be determined:

- How does one know if the prostate cancer is confined to the prostate?
- How and why does one stage prostate cancer?
- What is a bone scan?

***Part 5: Treatment of Prostate Cancer*** **63**

**Questions 46–86** outline the many options for treatment and management of prostate cancer, including:

- Why do I need a team of doctors to treat me? Who are they?
- What options do I have for treatment of my prostate cancer?
- How do I decide which treatment is best for me?

***Part 6: Complications of Treatment*** **153**

**Questions 87–92** address some of the side effects and complications that can occur with prostate cancer treatment:

- Are there any predictors of recurrence of prostate cancer after “curative” therapy?
- What happens if the PSA is rising after radiation therapy or radical prostatectomy?
- My doctor has recommended that I be involved in a clinical trial. What is a clinical trial?

***Part 7: Social Effects of Prostate Cancer*** **191**

**Questions 93–100** discuss some of the day-to-day problems that might arise in coping with prostate cancer:

- I don’t have a job or insurance. How can I get my prostate checked?
- Are there support groups for men with prostate cancer, and if so, how do I find out about these?
- I’ve never thought of dying before, but now that I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer, I think about it and wonder if there are things that I should be doing to prepare myself for the inevitable.

***Appendix*** **203**

A list of Web sites, organizations, and literature to help prostate cancer patients and their families find additional resources on general and specific topics related to prostate cancer.

**Glossary** **213**

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