



When prostate cancer comes back

Summary in 5 points

→ Has your cancer returned? We can still go for a cure or control the intruder in the long term

Usually, your doctor detects a recurrence when your PSA level starts to rise again. In the presence of a recurrence, various treatment options can be used, with the aim of curing, if not controlling its progression, if it is aggressive. Standard hormone therapy is often part of the treatment options for a recurrence.

→ Cancer controlled by standard hormone therapy is said to be hormone sensitive.

Hormone therapy alone cannot cure prostate cancer, but it can reduce the size of tumors, put the cancer cells "to sleep" and control cancer's growth, thus prolonging your life. In some cases, hormone therapy can be given intermittently to reduce side effects. A low and stable PSA level usually indicates that hormone therapy is working. With this treatment, the progression of the cancer can be controlled for several years.

→ Are your PSA levels going up despite your hormone therapy?

Your doctor may delay starting additional treatment if the level is rising very slowly over a long period of time. However, if you have a rapid increase in your PSA, next-generation hormone therapy, in tablet form, may be offered. This is effective in delaying the progression to the bone, the need for chemotherapy in the presence of metastases and prolonging life expectancy. This is called castration-resistant cancer.

→ Is your cancer progressing despite standard or next-generation hormone therapy?

Your doctor might recommend chemotherapy, radiation therapy or targeted therapy. These treatments are administered alone, in alternation, in combination or through clinical trials. One thing is certain: your treatment will aim to prolong your life, slow the progression of your cancer, relieve your symptoms if you have any, and improve your quality of life.

→ The importance of advances in research if your cancer is stubborn and continues to grow

For more than 10 years, several studies have allowed the approval of multiple treatments in patients at this stage. For example, the use in medical imaging of PSMA, a specific marker, will change the management of prostate cancer. It will make it possible to detect a recurrence or lymph node metastases at the very beginning or will allow find tumors and destroy them in the process. In addition, several treatments are personalized according to your genetic map (DNA).

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