

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [646-926-0945](tel:646-926-0945) to make an appointment.

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Cancer Center

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Other people may feel comfortable managing this low-risk prostate cancer without aggressive treatment. They choose a careful monitoring program called [active surveillance](#). It's a form of treatment and is not the same as having no treatment. If your care team sees changes in your prostate or tumor they may recommend you stop active surveillance. You may start another treatment, such as surgery or radiation therapy.

A [prostate-specific antigen \(PSA\) test](#) is a simple blood test. You should only consider getting a PSA if you're comfortable managing low-risk prostate cancer with active surveillance. You may need a biopsy if the PSA is high. A biopsy is a procedure to get a sample of cells or tissue to examine.

[Read more about prostate cancer](#).

Request an Appointment

Call [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225)

We're available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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What is the screening test for prostate cancer?

Screening for prostate cancer is done with a simple blood test called a [prostate-specific antigen \(PSA\) test](#). This test measures the level of a protein made by cells in the prostate gland in your blood. PSA levels rise if there's a problem with your prostate. It's normal to have a low level of PSA.

What is my risk for prostate cancer?

Knowing your risk for getting prostate cancer can help you decide whether screening is right for you. A risk factor is anything that increases your chance of getting a disease, such as cancer.

Anyone with a prostate gland can get prostate cancer. This includes people of all genders who were assigned male at birth, such as transgender women. If you're a transgender woman and had gender-affirming surgery, you probably still have a prostate gland. Talk with your healthcare provider about being screened.

Age is the biggest risk factor for prostate cancer. The older you are, the more likely you may get prostate cancer. Other factors that raise your risk for prostate cancer are:

- Having a close relative, such as a parent or sibling, with prostate cancer. This is very true if they were diagnosed before age 60.
- Having changes (mutations or variants) in certain genes passed down from a parent. These genes include [BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes](#) , *HOXB13*, and *ATM*. Our [clinical genetics experts](#) are available to help you understand your level of risk. They can recommend screening that's right for you.
- Your race. Prostate cancer affects the Black community at a higher rate than any other race in the United States.

MSK's screening guidelines for prostate cancer

Talk with your healthcare provider about your risk for prostate cancer and when screening is right for you. If you decide to have prostate cancer screening, MSK recommends you follow these guidelines. They apply to people at average risk who are expected to live 10 years or longer.

The guidelines may be different from those of other groups of experts. You and your healthcare provider may choose other options for having a prostate biopsy or your screening schedule.

If you're age 45 to
49

If you're age 50 to
59

If you're age 60 to
70

If you're age 71 to
75

If you're age 76 and
older