

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225) to make an appointment.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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Surgeons Jonathan Coleman, Behfar Ehdaie, and Jonathan S. Fainberg (pictured) are specialists in focal therapies, a set of minimally invasive techniques for eliminating small, localized tumors in the prostate.

Focal therapy is a prostate cancer treatment for small tumors that are in only one area of the prostate. This treatment is also known as partial gland ablation. Focal therapy is less invasive, meaning it does less harm to healthy issue. It is a safe and effective treatment for prostate cancer.

Focal therapy uses real-time imaging to guide treatment methods that kill small tumors inside the prostate. It offers benefits over other treatments:

It can kill areas of cancer in the prostate without harming normal prostate tissue and function.

There can be fewer and less severe side effects than there are with more aggressive treatments, such as surgery and radiation.

It can often be done as an outpatient procedure.

Request an Appointment

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

Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time)

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MSK's Approach to Focal Therapy

Focal therapy is not for everyone who has prostate cancer. MSK follows strict standards for recommending who should have it. You must first have a thorough evaluation. MSK experts will confirm your tumor is small and localized (in only one part of the body). We also will make sure we can skip or delay more extensive treatment.

Our goal is to treat the area of the prostate gland that has higher-grade cancer. For the parts of the prostate that have low-grade tumors, we use [active surveillance](#).

After focal therapy, we will monitor you closely using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and prostate needle biopsy. These tests tell us if the cancer is gone and let us check if it later returns.

MSK is a leader in studying new technology to use in focal therapy for certain prostate cancers. Some of these new methods are available only through our research studies, known as [clinical trials](#).

MSK has led research studies that show successful short-term results in killing tumors. It's important to learn if focal therapy keeps cancer from coming back. We are now studying the long-term benefits for people who had this treatment.

Focal Cryoablation

+

High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound

+

NanoKnife® (Irreversible electroporation)

+

Follow-Up Care

MSK will carefully monitor your progress after focal therapy. You will have exams and [prostate-specific antigen \(PSA\) testing](#). You also will have MRI testing and prostate needle biopsy. These tests tell us if your treatment was successful or if the cancer has come back. In some cases, we won't treat low-risk prostate cancer. Instead, we will monitor you through [active surveillance](#).

Please talk with your healthcare provider to see if you can join MSK's focal therapy clinical trials. They can refer you to MSK experts who will know if these new treatments are right for you.

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