

# LOVE CANAL MEDICAL FUND

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## Prostate Cancer

There are many different types of cancer. In fact, cancer is really a group of diseases that affects different cells in the body. Prostate cancer is a disease that affects the cells of the prostate. Normally, cells grow and divide in an orderly way. This is how the body grows and stays healthy. Sometimes this normal process of cell growth can go wrong. If abnormal cells continue to divide when they're not supposed to, they can form a tumor. Cancerous prostate tumors can, if untreated, spread to other parts of the body.

The prostate gland is part of the male reproductive system. It is about the same size and shape as a walnut and weighs only about an ounce. The prostate is located below the bladder and in front of the rectum. The prostate surrounds a tube called the urethra that carries urine from the bladder out through the penis. The main function of the prostate is to produce fluid for semen.

### 10 Things To Know About Prostate Cancer

1. One in every six men will get prostate cancer sometime in his life.
2. The chances of getting prostate cancer are one in three if you have just one close relative (father, brother) with the disease. The risk is five-fold with two close relatives. With three, it's an almost certainty (97 percent) that you'll get prostate cancer.
3. African American men are at special risk for the disease. They have the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world. In fact, the incidence rate in African Americans is 60 percent higher than in white males and double the mortality rate.
4. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of male cancer death in the United States. An American man dies every 18 minutes from the disease.
5. An estimated 28,900 men will die from prostate cancer this year.
6. More than 220,000 cases are expected this year - more than breast cancer.

7. In the single decade of the 1990s, prostate cancer killed about 350,000 men, slightly more than the entire population of Cincinnati, Ohio
8. Before the advent of early detection through PSA screening, about three-fourths of all prostate cancer cases were found in the late stages where the disease isn't readily treatable or curable. Since widespread use of screening, about three-fourths of all cases are now found early—giving men a fighting chance.
9. Every man over 50 - younger if African American or with a family history of the disease -should be screened annually for prostate cancer.
10. Screening for prostate cancer takes less than 10 minutes and is covered by health insurance in many states.

## Symptoms

If symptoms occur, they may include difficulty starting urination, reduced force of stream of urine, urinating small amounts frequently, urinating more frequently during the night, painful urination and bone pain. Often there are no symptoms, which is why screening is so important.

## Screening Tools

The goal of early detection is to find the disease in its early stages when treatment is most likely to be effective. Not all prostate problems are cancer. Benign prostatic hypertrophy, is very common in men as they get older, and can have some of the same symptoms as cancer. Many men develop these symptoms and it is due to benign disease not cancer. There are two widely used tests to aid in the early detection of prostate cancer.

**PSA** - This simple blood test measures the level of protein called prostate-specific antigen (PSA). Normally, PSA is found in the blood at very low levels. Elevated PSA readings can be a sign of prostate cancer; however, PSA levels can be elevated for reasons other than cancer.

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**Physical Exam** - The digital rectal exam (DRE) is a simple, safe and only slightly uncomfortable physical exam performed by your physician.

The most comprehensive method for early detection uses both the PSA and DRE tests. Although PSA will detect most high-risk cancers, there can be cancers that will be missed by this test and can be detected by the physical exam. Therefore, using both tests together will give your doctor the most accurate information

Prostate cancer incidence rates increased 192% between 1973 and 1992. Prostate cancer represents about 30% of all new cancer cases in American men.

This year, more cases of prostate cancer in men under the age of 65 are expected than the combined number of men of all ages who are victims of leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, and brain tumors.

Over the past 20 years, overall survival rates for all stages of prostate cancer combined have increased from 67% to 89%. Some of the possible reasons for the increase in survival rates include public education, new techniques of early detection, and aggressive therapy.

### The Major Treatment Options

The major treatment options for prostate cancer include surgery, radiation, medical therapy, a combination of medical therapy and surgery or radiation, chemotherapy, and watchful waiting. A patient's treatment options will depend upon his age, the stage of the disease, and the advice of a physician.

Cancer is a disease that the Love Canal Medical Fund generally covers. Even though some cancers can be related to your family history, the many cancer causing chemicals at Love Canal could be the trigger that caused the cancer. Please send your information to the Love Canal Medical Fund and let the claims adjuster look at your claim and make a judgment.

### Love Canal Medical Fund Contact Information:

If you have any questions, please let us know using e-mail, the telephone, or the U.S. postal system. Our e-mail address is [lcmf@adelphia.net](mailto:lcmf@adelphia.net) and our phone number is 716-773-6578.

Please, leave a message and we'll make sure that your call receives a quick response. You can also write us at Love Canal Medical Fund, P.O. Box 540, Grand Island, NY 14072.