

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT PROSTATE CANCER

What Are The Key Statistics About Prostate Cancer?

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer, other than skin cancers, in American men. The American Cancer Society estimates that during 2009 about 192,280 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States. About 1 man in 6 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. More than 2 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today. According to Senator Dodd's physicians, for men in his age group with his prostate cancer, the estimated 5-year survival rate is nearly 100% and the estimated 10-year survival rate is 96%.

How Many People In Connecticut Are Affected By Prostate Cancer?

According to the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, there were 2,280 new cases of prostate cancer in Connecticut in 2008, and 2,890 new cases in 2007.

What Is Prostate Cancer?

Several types of cells are found in the prostate, but over 99% of prostate cancers develop from the gland cells. The medical term for a cancer that starts in gland cells is adenocarcinoma. Some prostate cancers can grow and spread quickly, but most of them grow slowly. In fact, autopsy studies show that many older men (and even some younger men) who died of other diseases also had prostate cancer that never affected them during their lives. In these studies, 70% to 90% of the men had cancer in their prostate by age 80, but in many cases neither they nor their doctors even knew they had it.

What Is A PSA Blood Test?

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) is a substance made by cells in the prostate gland. Most healthy men have levels under 4ng/mL of blood. The chance of having prostate cancer goes up as the PSA level goes up. When prostate cancer develops, the PSA level usually goes above 4. Men with a PSA level in the borderline range between 4 and 10, have about a 1 in 4 chance of having prostate cancer. If the PSA is more than 10, the chance of having prostate cancer is over 50%.

Sources: American Cancer Society, cancer.org; The Project to End Prostate Cancer, zerocancer.org