

Prostate Cancer MRI

Accurate Diagnosis and Treatment

Active Surveillance Monitoring

MEN AT LOW RISK

Limited life expectancy, many co morbidities

Appropriate follow up

MEN AT MODERATE AND HIGH RISK (pre-programmed follow-up)

6 MONTHS

- PSA every 6 months
- TRUS-PSAD, urine culture, PVR (post void residual)
- Biomarkers
- MRI if none previous
- TRUS/MRI Fusion Targeted Biopsy as indicated

12-36 MONTHS

- Repeat MRI, compare to previous
- TRUS-PSAD, urine culture, PVR
- Biomarkers
- TRUS/MRI fusion targeted biopsy

MRI and advanced biomarkers

are replacing the need for serial repeat biopsy sessions

Prostate cancer doubling time is 4 years. Missing an in-between or aggressive cancer causes no harm. Active Surveillance with MRI and pre-programmed follow-up will diagnose them.

References

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Active Surveillance



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PSA to Prostate MRI

for patients and curious doctors

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I've been diagnosed with prostate cancer, what if I decide to just do nothing?

Active Surveillance

Selection And Monitoring Of Untreated Prostate Cancer

Sparing patients with not-aggressive and in-between prostate cancers the pain, risks and side effects of unnecessary treatment.

Prostate Cancers

Not-Aggressive In-Between Aggressive

indolent, insignificant
low grade, low risk, non-invasive

biologically active, significant
high grade, high risk, invasive

Most Prostate Cancers are Not-Aggressive

- > Common, frequent, slow growing, cause no illness
- > PSA slow progression ; PSA density ≤ 0.10 (prostate volume obtained from TRUS or MRI)
- > Men with Not-Aggressive prostate cancers die from other causes
- > Small volume Gleason grades 6 (low grade favorable microscopic appearance)
- > **Not imaged on MRI**

In Between

- > PSA progression variable
- > PSA Density (PSAD) 0.10 – 0.15
- > Sometimes visualized on **MRI**, cancer nodule 0.2 – 0.5 cc
- > Small volume Gleason 6, 7 (3+4)

Some Prostate Cancers are Aggressive

- > Less frequent, grow faster, cause serious illness and death
- > PSA rapid progression (prostate infections, urine retention can also cause rapid rise in PSA)
- > PSA density ≥ 0.15
- > **Usually imaged on MRI** (cancer nodule usually ≥ 0.5 cc)
- > Biopsy Gleason grades 7 (4+3), 8, 9, 10 (high grade unfavorable microscopic appearance)

Criteria for Active Surveillance

- Age, Life expectancy
 - PSA, PSA Progression, PSA Density
 - MRI PI-RAD Score
 - % Cancers in biopsy cores
 - Local-Regional Stage (MRI)
- Gleason Grade 6, 7 (3+4)**
- Biomarkers
 - MRI cancer nodule(s) volume, location
 - Number of cores with cancer
 - Body Bone Scan Stage

PSA

For Diagnosis

no assigned normal limits

- 4 ng/ml upper limit of normal incorrect
- The higher the PSA value the greater likelihood of cancer
- Less than 4 ng/ml aggressive cancers can be present
- Over 4 ng/ml mostly BPH caused
- **PSA Density, PSA Progression** better cancer predictors

After treatment

PSA is a sensitive, reliable biomarker for monitoring cancers

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Pamphlet #17

Active Surveillance Outcomes

- 25 % have higher Gleason grades than initially diagnosed
- 10 % develop worst cancers over many years
- 30 % require or request treatment
- 3 % die from prostate cancer

These percentages are expected to decrease with Prostate MRI, targeted biopsies and MRI used in selection and monitoring for Active Surveillance

- The majority of men with not-aggressive and in-between cancers avoid treatment with Active Surveillance
- Very few men on Active Surveillance become ill from prostate cancer
- Pre-programmed follow-up with PSA, biomarkers, MRI and repeat biopsies diagnose the aggressive cancers before they cause trouble

Gleason Grade 3+4

Less than 10 % pattern 4 is suitable for Active Surveillance

Greater than 10 % pattern 4 has 4 times higher prostate cancer mortality

Prostate MRI

- > New complex prostate imaging technology **detailed anatomy, cellular physiology, microvasculature**
- > 90 % accurate in identifying aggressive cancers
 - Targets specific nodule(s) to biopsy
 - Predicts Gleason Grade
 - Local-regional staging
- > Provides **image based** criteria for Active Surveillance selection and monitoring
- > **Baseline MRI** a reference for repeat monitoring MRIs
- > MRI best done before **biopsy artefacts** which makes interpreting the MRI much more difficult
- > Prostate MRI requires experienced **Radiologist**, MRI knowledgeable **Urologist** and **Pathologist** to prove the presence of cancer from tissue samples
- > **5 alfa reductases inhibitors** downplays aggressive cancers
 - Lowers PSA
 - Decreases MR Imaged nodule(s) volume and score
 - Gives a false sense of PSA security