

# PROSTATE CANCER NEWS



## Protein Possible Culprit in Aggressive Prostate Cancer

Research scientists have discovered that the presence of a specific protein can distinguish prostate cancers that are aggressive and from those that may never seriously harm the patient, according to Professor Malcolm Mason, head of the Institute of Cancer and Genetics, Cardiff University, UK. The study, published in *Oncogene Today*, found much higher levels of the protein, NAALADL2, in prostate cancer tissue, compared with healthy tissue. The protein NAALADL2 causes prostate cancer cells to behave more aggressively, making them more likely to move and invade healthy tissue surrounding the tumor.

The team confirmed in two independent patient groups the protein could be used to diagnose prostate cancer. More important, it found that high levels of the protein could potentially pinpoint which patients have aggressive disease and who would need surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. Patients with lower levels of the protein were more likely to require monitoring, rather than treatment.

## Doubling the Chances of Survival

Combination treatment more than halves mortality rates for prostate cancer, reports Norwegian health journal *Dagens Medisin*. The figures were presented at an international conference sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

By adding radiotherapy to the standard hormone treatment against prostate cancer, the 10- to 15-year survival rate for men with prostate cancer more than doubled, according to a long-term follow-up study by researchers of the Scandinavian Prostate Cancer Group. Lead author Dr. Sophie Fosså, professor at Oslo University Hospital in Norway, said "This combination more than doubles the 10-year survival rate, and confirms this approach should be a standard option for men with this type of prostate cancer who are expected to live at least another 10 years."

## Counseling Encouraged for Patients Receiving ADT

A new study published in the *Journal of Urology* reports that prostate cancer patients treated with androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) experienced changes in mental and emotional well-being during treatment, although there was no meaningful decline in emotional quality of life two years after treatment. Investigators recommend counseling men about the potential adverse effects of ADT, as well as the interventions to improve mental and emotional health, such as exercise programs and diet.

## BPA Exposure Linked to Prostate Cancer

Exposure to low levels of bisphenol-A (BPA) in utero may make men more susceptible to prostate cancer later in life, according to a new study led by a team from the University of Illinois at Chicago. The research is the first to link early-life BPA exposure to human prostate cancer. BPA is used to make polycarbonate plastics and is found in in some paper receipts, liners of some food cans, and dental sealants. More than 90 percent of Americans have traces in their bodies and previous studies suggest there is "universal fetal exposure."

BPA acts as an estrogen, and previous research has linked elevated estrogen levels during pregnancy to increased risk of prostate cancer in males. "We know that stem cells help replenish our organs throughout life. If there is exposure early in life to an estrogenic compound, such as BPA, it reprograms our stem cells," said Gail Prins, a lead author of the study, which was published in the journal *Endocrinology*.