

# Ask CDC

## Prostate Cancer: Should You Get Screened?

*This podcast is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC - safer, healthier people.*

Welcome to Ask CDC, the podcast that answers *your* questions. I'm your host, Susan Laird. Our question this week is from a listener who wants to know if he should be screened for prostate cancer.

Cancer screening means looking for cancer before it causes symptoms. For prostate cancer, men have a test for prostate specific antigen, or PSA, which measures the level of PSA in the blood. PSA is a substance made by the prostate. Levels in the blood can be higher in men who have prostate cancer, but other health conditions, such as benign prostate diseases, inflammation, and obesity can also affect PSA levels.

Not all doctors agree that prostate cancer screening is right for all men because there isn't enough scientific evidence to show that prostate cancer screening saves lives. The potential *benefit* of prostate cancer screening is finding cancer early, when treatment works best. Possible *risks* of screening include false positive test results that show there might be a cancer when there really isn't, and treating cancers that may not affect your health if left untreated. Treatment can have serious side effects.

To decide whether prostate cancer screening is right for you, discuss the pros and cons with your health care provider and the people important in your life.

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Thanks for listening. To submit *your* question to *Ask CDC*, email us at [askcdc@cdc.gov](mailto:askcdc@cdc.gov).

*For the most accurate health information, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO, 24/7.*