Prostate cancer warning signs

The prostate is a gland in males located between the bladder and the rectum. It surrounds the urethra, the tube that carries urine from the bladder. Its job is to produce fluid that makes up a part of semen. Normally, the prostate gland is the size of a walnut.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. Fortunately, most men who get prostate cancer do not die from it. Your chance of getting prostate cancer might be higher if:

- You are 50 years of age or older.
- You are black.
- Your father, brother or son has gotten it.
Symptoms

When the prostate gets bigger because of cancer, it can squeeze the urethra. This stops or slows down the flow of urine. This may be a sign of prostate cancer. But other health conditions can cause the same problem, so check with your doctor if this happens to you. The same is true for these prostate cancer symptoms:

- Frequent urination (especially at night)
- Difficulty urinating
- Pain or burning during urination
- Blood in the urine or semen
- Nagging pain in the back, hips or pelvis
- Painful ejaculation

Screening for prostate cancer

Not all men have symptoms when they have prostate cancer. Routine screenings can be done to find it, but the decision to get a prostate cancer screening is yours. Not all health and medical organizations agree on whether screenings are right for everyone. Talk to your doctor about the risks and benefits.