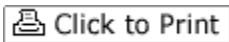




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Health Matters: Prostate Cancer

Triston Sanders - Medical Anchor

Prostate cancer accounts for 30 percent of male cancer cases. All men over the age of 50 have an increased risk for this disease. In this Health Matters we take a look at the importance of early detection and the advancements in treatment of prostate cancer through one man's experience.

Leon Smith knew something was wrong, but he tried to ignore it for some time.

Leon says, "For several years I was experiencing having to go to the bathroom at night to urinate more than normal, and sometimes three or four times. I knew there was something going on."

Leon finally went to see his doctor and he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, but he soon realized that great advancements have been made in treating this disease.

Dr. Eric Rost, an oncologist at Capital Regional Medical Center, says, "You can have your prostate cancer cured without losing your ability to have an erection, without peeing in your pants and seats for the rest of your life and without having any bowel problems."

The important key with prostate cancer, as with all types of cancer, is early detection.

"Nobody wants to think about prostate cancer, but if you ignore it, it doesn't mean it goes away, it will be a lot worse if we discover it late than if we discover it early."

Tomotherapy has been the greatest advancement in treating prostate cancer, and this type of radiation has almost no side effects.

"Make sure that you get an opinion from a radiation oncologist on the proper choices and options for your care. I think that you will be very satisfied with the answers you are going to get."

Leon has been very satisfied with his treatment choice and says he hopes other men will get checked for prostate cancer after hearing his story.

Men should undergo screening for prostate cancer beginning at age 50 years, and even earlier if they are in a high risk group or are experiencing symptoms, talk to your doctor if you have any questions.

Click on a video link to view this story:

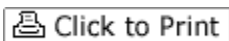
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