

FORGING THE FUTURE:



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Friday FACTS

6 August 2004

"Leadership, Partnership, and Championship"

Prostate Cancer Control Initiatives



Prostate Cancer Screening

SEPTEMBER 19-25, PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

Is Prostate Cancer Screening Right for You?

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men. Next to skin cancer, it is the most common cancer in men.

Prostate cancer can often be detected early with a digital rectal examination (DRE) and a simple blood test (PSA). But is screening right for you? Medical experts disagree on screening for prostate. Some recommend regular screening. Others do not.

The American Cancer Society believes that health care professionals should offer the PSA test and DRE yearly, beginning at age 50, to men who have at least a 10-year life expectancy. Men at higher risk for prostate cancer, such as African Americans and men who have a father, brother, or son diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age, should begin testing at age 45.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, National Cancer Institute, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Society of Internal Medicine, and the American College of Preventive Medicine are among those that do not recommend routine testing for prostate cancer.

Discuss your risk factors for prostate cancer and the pros and cons of screening with your doctor. The decision to be screened is up to you and your doctor.

For more information, see website <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate/decisionguide/index.htm>.

Sources: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Cancer Society.

World Suicide Prevention Day, 10th September 2004
Saving lives, restoring hope

AAS Suicide Prevention Week

This year, AAS-sponsored Suicide Prevention Week will be held from September 5th to 11th. The change from May to September was made in an effort to coordinate with World Suicide Prevention Day hosted by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) on September 10th. For more information visit: <http://www.med.uio.no/iasp/wspd/menu.html>.

List Grows for the Health Consequences of Smoking

A new government report expands the list of illness and conditions linked to smoking. Added to this list are cataracts, pneumonia, acute myeloid leukemia, abdominal aortic aneurysm, stomach cancer, pancreatic cancer, cervical cancer, kidney cancer, and periodontitis. Earlier research confirmed that smoking causes cancers of the lung, larynx, bladder, esophagus, mouth and throat; chronic bronchitis; cardiovascular diseases; and reproductive problems.

Source: The Health Consequences of Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General released, May 2004, www.surgeongeneral.gov.



"The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials."
- Chinese Proverb