
Prostate Cancer

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Prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death in men in the United States.

- One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime.
- An estimated 192,280 men in the United States were diagnosed with the disease in 2009.
- That same year, prostate cancer claimed the lives of an estimated 27,360 American men.

Over the last thirty years, the combined effort of cancer researchers has increased general five-year survival rates by 32%.

Our Achievements in Prostate Cancer Research

Damon Runyon scientists have been on the cutting-edge of prostate cancer research for the last two decades. Our scientists:

- ✓ Contributed to the development of the experimental prostate cancer vaccine Provenge, which significantly increased the survival rate of men with advanced prostate cancer in a clinical trial. The drug is currently being evaluated for approval by the FDA.
- ✓ found that the immune system can be prompted to attack cancer cells when a vaccine is administered at the initial time of hormone therapy.
- ✓ identified a protein complex that may be a key player in prostate tumors, suggesting that blocking the formation of this complex could be a promising strategy for new cancer drugs.
- ✓ found that prostate cancer turns deadly when it reaches the spine because the spine is rich in transferrin, a protein which spurs prostate tumor cells to grow rapidly.
- ✓ developed a new urine-based screening test for diagnosis of prostate cancer, which may someday replace traditional PSA testing.

Current Prostate Cancer Research Projects

Damon Runyon is currently funding many scientists that are researching ways to better diagnose, treat and cure prostate cancer. These researchers are:

- applying genomic technologies to better understand the biology and clinical behavior of prostate cancer. Their work has demonstrated that the expression of a small group of genes can be used to predict the recurrence of prostate cancer following surgery.
- defining key mechanisms underlying resistance of prostate cancer to hormone treatment with the goal of developing novel treatments that can be rapidly moved into the clinic.
- utilizing high-throughput screening to identify new genes that control the tumor suppressor protein, PTEN, in prostate cancer. The goal is to gain a better understanding of how prostate cancer is initiated.

**Most Statistics adapted from the SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2006*