



Testicular Cancer Fact Sheet

What causes testicular cancer?	No one knows for certain. There is some speculation that the risk begins during embryonic development and the disease is often associated with other urologic problems, like an undescended testicle.
How common is it?	Testicular cancer represents only 1 percent of cancers in men, but is the most common cancer in young males between the ages of 20 and 34. Nearly all cases, about 75 percent, occur in men between 20 and 49. In West Virginia, it is the most common form of cancer in men ages 15 to 24.
What are the symptoms?	The most common symptom is a mass or lump on the testicle. Usually, there is no pain.
How is it diagnosed?	Most cases are discovered by men themselves accidentally or during self-examination. An urologist may choose to do an ultrasound and follow-up blood tests to confirm.
What is the treatment?	Early stage testicular cancer can be treated with surgery and radiation therapy. Late stage testicular cancer can be treated with the combination of surgery, radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy.
What is the outlook?	Excellent. Testicular cancer is one of the most treatable forms with cure rates near 100 percent when detected early. Even in later stages, the outlook remains good. Following successful treatment, men live long, productive, healthy lives with normal physical and sexual function.
How does a self-exam help?	Men who examine themselves routinely will be able to detect any changes in the shape, texture, and firmness of the testicle. Any month-to-month change should be checked by a doctor, preferably an urologist.
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