

How can a simple blood test have risks?

Explore what can happen if you get a high result on a PSA test.

A man gets the PSA test.



His result is high. It's probably fine. But it could be a sign of problems.



More tests, please.



So the provider orders more tests to be sure, like a biopsy. These can be stressful and painful.

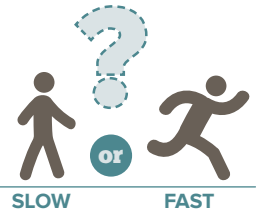
For some men, it ends there — the biopsy is negative.



But for others, the biopsy is positive — the man has cancer.



It's cancer, but...



It's probably a slow-growing prostate cancer that won't ever need treatment — most are. But providers can't always tell if a cancer is harmless or dangerous.

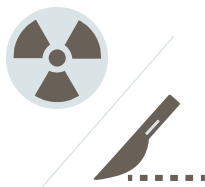


Now the man has two options:



Regular Prostate Checkups. Treat if Needed.

He may choose to watch and wait with his provider to see if the cancer is going to grow. If the cancer does grow — or if waiting causes too much stress — he may choose to get treatment.



Immediate Treatment

That means he'll have to go through radiation or surgery, even though he might not actually benefit from it.



Then, there are possible complications from surgery like:



Blood Clots and Heart Attacks

And possible long lasting side effects from treatment like:



Impotence
(trouble staying hard during sex)



Incontinence
(leaking urine)