

UCLA

Health System

Prostate Cancer

Treatments as unique as you are



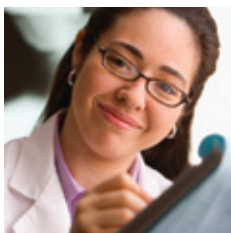
UCLA Prostate Cancer Program

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among men. The UCLA Prostate Cancer Program brings together the elements essential to ensuring the best outcome for each patient: skilled physicians, the most advanced technologies available, and an innovative research program dedicated to finding the best ways to diagnose and treat the disease.

UCLA's multidisciplinary team of experts includes urologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, pathologists and radiologists. These experts collaborate closely to diagnose the nature and extent of the disease, and to evaluate the potential merit of conventional and experimental therapies — including those available only through clinical trials — before recommending a course of treatment based on each patient's needs and preferences.

In addition, the National Cancer Institute has designated the UCLA Prostate Cancer Program as a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE), a distinction that recognizes our exemplary work in translational research, taking prostate cancer discoveries from laboratories to the clinic. Such work has included

discovering biomarkers for prostate cancer as well as increasing the effectiveness of minimally invasive treatment options.



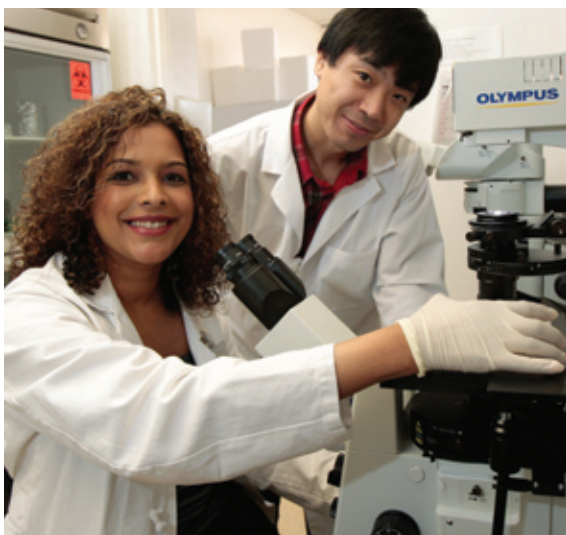


“We understand the complexities of prostate cancer and, as a team, we tailor our recommendations to ensure we provide the right treatment for the right person.”

— *Robert E. Reiter, M.D.*
*Director of the Prostate Cancer Treatment
and Research Program at UCLA*

Diagnosis

Accurately diagnosing prostate tumors is critical to tailoring treatment to individual patients. UCLA physicians improve the precision of the information obtained from biopsy alone by integrating biopsy results with imaging studies — including magnetic resonance (MR), MR spectroscopy and 3D ultrasound. New molecular markers are also increasingly used to provide yet more prognostic information to aid in treatment planning. Advanced imaging also can be used to map cancer locations in the prostate more accurately to guide a biopsy, or prior to surgery in order to aid both cancer removal and the preservation of urinary and sexual function.





Surgery

Our physicians perform hundreds of prostate cancer surgeries annually, including minimally invasive, image-guided nerve-sparing robotic prostatectomies. Imaging technologies precisely map tumors before surgery and pathology data after surgery to ensure successful removal of all cancerous tissue. For patients with small tumors, we offer experimental “focal therapies,” such as cryotherapy, high-intensity focused ultrasound and photodynamic therapy. UCLA also offers cryotherapy for recurrence of prostate cancer after radiation, as well as conventional open nerve-sparing radical prostatectomy. Extended lymph node dissection templates are used in men with high-risk prostate cancer.

Radiation Therapy

UCLA has vast experience with external beam radiation therapy, a technique that uses high-energy rays to kill cancer cells. Image-guided internal radiation — or brachytherapy — implants radioactive seeds directly into or near the tumor to kill cancerous tissue. Additionally, UCLA was the first center in Los Angeles to utilize the Novalis Tx stereotactic radiosurgery system, which precisely delivers high doses of radiation while protecting nearby healthy tissues. In some patients, this technology may reduce the required radiation period from six weeks to five days. This state-of-the-art system significantly reduces side effects as well.

Medical Therapies

Chemotherapy uses anticancer drugs to kill cancer cells. Hormone therapy removes or blocks hormones, preventing prostate cancer from growing or spreading. UCLA prostate cancer patients have access to standard drug therapies as well as experimental therapies through clinical trials designed to treat all stages of the disease. Currently, UCLA is conducting studies on molecularly targeted drugs, which are designed to selectively attack the abnormal biochemical signals present in tumor cells.





Active Surveillance

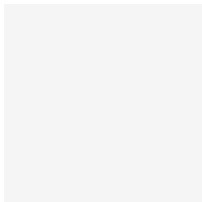
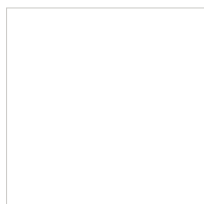
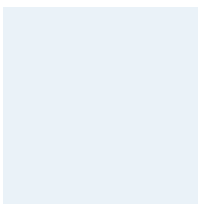
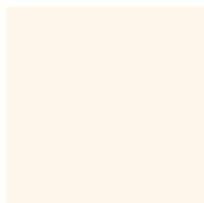
In patients with slow-growing tumors and in older patients with more serious health conditions, the risks of prostate cancer treatment may outweigh the potential benefits. Active surveillance avoids or delays treatment in these patients. UCLA patients undergoing active surveillance are closely monitored based on uniform criteria for entering and exiting the program. Blood tests and imaging studies are conducted to identify appropriate candidates and to facilitate ongoing evaluation. Patients return for clinical examinations every six to 12 months.

Appointments

For an appointment with the UCLA Prostate Cancer Program, please call (310) 794-7700.

Clinical Trial Information

For information on prostate cancer clinical trials, please call (310) 794-7704.



UCLA Prostate Cancer Program

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