

Prostate Cancer

CHEMOTHERAPY

Importance of a Multi-Disciplinary Team

WHAT IS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM?

A multidisciplinary cancer center provides comprehensive cancer care through a team of urologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, nurses, social workers and integrative medicine specialists. The integrated, multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment puts patients first. The specialists review each patient's information and then each case is reviewed in detail with the team immediately after. Together these specialists determine the best, individualized treatment plan and recommend a course of action. The team of specialists continues to communicate and work together throughout the patient's course of treatment.

- Urologist
- Medical Oncologist
- Radiation Oncologist
- General Practitioner
- Therapist or Psychologist
- Nurses
- Pain Management
- Nutritionist
- Social Worker

Patients and caregivers should also not forget to get a second opinion after the initial diagnosis!



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY MEDICAL TEAM?

A multi-disciplinary team is important and can be very beneficial to patients and caregivers for several reasons. Physicians in multi-disciplinary centers are able to attend different meetings and read varied medical literature that covers multiple areas that may have new developments for treatment of prostate cancer. When you have a team of doctors that specialize in different areas working together they are more likely to share ideas and bring new concepts for treatment options. Another benefit is with the doctors being at the same place allows any disagreements or inconsistencies to be resolved.

Fortunately there has been an explosion in treatment advancements and options so it is good to have a team of physicians that are up to speed on these treatments. Multi-disciplinary centers are also likely to have additional support built into their centers like clinical trials, nutritional support, counseling, buddy programs, social service support, etc.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR TEAM

- How do you feel I'm doing on my current treatment? Is it still working?
- Are there any further treatment options?
- Do I need additional tests or films? How often do I need to get tested or new imaging taken?
- What are the potential side effects for the treatment options?
- What are the benefits and risks of these treatments?
- What is the failure rate after having the suggested treatment?

*Be sure to share your goals in treatment including balancing quality of life and access to therapies.



"Patients that have a multi-disciplinary team have increased survival"
-Leonard G. Gomella, MD of Jefferson Kimmel Cancer Center.