



800 Highway 71 East
Smithville, Texas 78957

SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smithville Hospital Authority offers Low-Cost Screenings during Prostate Cancer Awareness Week

Early Detection is the Best Prevention.

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer found in American men, other than skin cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be about 230,900 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States in the year 2004. About 29,900 men will die of this disease. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men, exceeded only by lung cancer. While 1 man in 6 will get prostate cancer during his lifetime, only 1 man in 32 will die of this disease. The death rate for prostate cancer is going down. And the disease is being found earlier as well. African-American men are more likely to have prostate cancer and to die of it than are white or Asian men. The reasons for this are still not known.

During the week of June 14th – 18th, Smithville Regional Hospital and Bastrop Medical Center are offering low-cost Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood screenings for men. This screening, which takes approximately 10 minutes of your time, is being offered for \$20 and men are encouraged to stop by the lab at SRH or BMC.

The prostate (PROS-tate) is a gland found only in men and is about the size of a walnut. It is just below the bladder and in front of the rectum. The tube that carries urine (the urethra) runs through the prostate.

The prostate contains cells that make some of the seminal fluid. This fluid protects and nourishes the sperm. Male hormones cause the prostate gland to develop in the fetus. The prostate keeps on growing as a boy grows to manhood. If male hormones are removed, the prostate gland will not grow to full size, or it could shrink.

Most of the time, prostate cancer grows very slowly. Autopsy studies show that many elderly men who died of other diseases also had prostate cancer that neither they nor their doctor were aware of. But sometimes prostate cancer can grow and spread quickly. Even with the latest methods, it is hard to tell which prostate cancers will grow slowly and which will grow quickly.

Some doctors believe that prostate cancer begins with very small changes in the size and shape of the prostate gland cells. These changes are known as PIN (prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia). These changes are grouped as either low-grade (almost normal) or high-grade (abnormal).

If you have had high-grade PIN, there is a higher chance that there are cancer cells in your prostate. For this reason, you will be watched carefully.

For more information regarding Prostate Cancer or this article, please visit [The American Cancer Society](#) website, or see your local physician.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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