

East Lancashire Prostate Cancer Support Group Newsletter



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*A Very Merry
Christmas & A
Very Happy
New Year To
Everybody.
Best Wishes To
All.*

*The Crew @
ELPCSG*



Rosemere Christmas Conference 2017



ELPCSG Christmas Meeting 7th December 2017



Another Year Down & Another Funny, Enjoyable Event!

Entertainment was provided by our resident star Glen Southworth & his Very Good Friend Dusty Young.

Plenty of food & drink was had by all .

So here's looking forward to another successful year for everybody, A Very Merry Christmas from the crew @ ELPCSG

“CHEERS”



Prostate diagnosis shame: Men wait four times as long for results as women with breast cancer symptoms

- Men wait four times longer to get a diagnosis compared to women with cancer
- It takes, on average, 56 days for a man to be told that he has prostate cancer
- Women, on the other hand, are told they have breast cancer after just 14 days

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[BEN SPENCER, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

Men with symptoms of prostate [cancer](#) wait four times longer for a diagnosis than women with suspected breast cancer, an audit has revealed.

It takes 56 days, on average, from the time a man first reports symptoms to a GP, for him to be confirmed with prostate cancer.

For breast cancer it takes just 14 days, largely thanks to the national screening programme of regular mammograms.

Experts have long warned that delayed diagnosis is a key reason British cancer survival rates lag behind other Western nations. Health officials have set a target for all cancer patients to be diagnosed within 28 days by 2020, but the study, which tracked nearly 19,000 people diagnosed with cancer in 2014, reveals that hitting that is a long way off.

It takes 56 days, on average, from the time a man first reports symptoms to a GP, for him to be confirmed with prostate cancer (stock image)

For cancers of all types it takes an average of 40 days for someone to be given a definite diagnosis, the researchers for Public Health England revealed.

And more than a fifth of patients experience avoidable delays along the way, they found.

The findings, published in the British Journal of General Practice, reveal the gulf in outcomes between different cancer types.

Breast cancer receives the quickest diagnosis of two weeks, on average, with 75 per cent being diagnosed within 19 days and 92 per cent diagnosed within 60 days.

For prostate cancer, which has one of the slowest diagnosis speeds, the average wait is 56 days, and a quarter of men have to wait 126 days – more than four months. Kidney cancer also takes a long time to diagnose, with an average of 66 days.

While screening for breast cancer is routine – with middle-aged women invited for scans every three years – tests for prostate cancer are haphazard, and more accurate tools are yet to make it out of the laboratory.

Women are typically told they have breast cancer 14 days after undergoing tests, thanks to the national screening programme of regular mammograms

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, chairman of the Royal College of GPs, said: 'GPs in the UK have some of the worst access to diagnostic tools in Europe.'

'We need better access to both existing and emerging tests and imaging tools that could help us identify cancers, particularly those with symptoms that are more difficult to spot.'

A two-week target for a woman with suspected breast cancer to receive diagnostic testing was introduced in 2010 after a campaign by charities – a target that does not exist for other cancers.

Men over the age of 50 are eligible for a 'PSA' blood test which gives doctors a rough idea of whether they are at risk of prostate cancer. But it is infamously unreliable, and men who get a positive result are usually sent for a biopsy for confirmation.

The NHS is beginning to use more accurate MRI scans in place of biopsies, but not every hospital has the equipment.

I had to ring my hospital... 92 days after being referred

When Tom Martin developed symptoms of prostate cancer he had good reason to fear the worst – both his cousin and uncle had been killed by the disease.

But the 79-year-old was forced to wait three months for the cancer to be diagnosed and only found out because he rang the hospital 92 days after his initial urgent referral.

The former BT manager, pictured, had to wait 63 days just to have a scan to assess his condition. Three months after the referral and a month after the scan Mr Martin phoned Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, and was told he had prostate cancer which was spreading to his lymph nodes.

Had he not made the call and simply waited for his next appointment it would have been 100 days before he was diagnosed and could begin the treatment he is now receiving.

'I was particularly anxious because of the family history,' he told the Times. 'My uncle had died of prostate cancer and my cousin, who was three years younger than me, did not last very long after his diagnosis.'

While he anxiously waited to find out if he had the disease from March until June last year, Mr Martin lived with painful symptoms that woke him at night. 'You are left with the thought, if it had been diagnosed earlier, would that have happened,' he added.

Prostate cancer is the most common male cancer, with 47,000 British men diagnosed and 10,900 killed each year. Breast cancer affects similar numbers – with some 53,000 women diagnosed every year and 11,700 fatalities.

But there is a major difference in publicity levels, which experts fear means men and doctors alike are less aware of the symptoms. Breast cancer, for example, has been the subject of major campaigns since the early 1990s, with the recognisable pink ribbon and Race For Life campaigns pushing up funding and awareness levels. It was not until 2007 that Movember, the annual men's cancer campaign, came to Britain.

Heather Blake of Prostate Cancer UK said last night: 'It is clear that it often takes far too long to get a diagnosis for cancer in the UK. Part of the issue for prostate cancer is that, until recently, men with raised PSA levels only had an MRI scan after undergoing a biopsy – a procedure which often needs time to heal before an accurate scan can take place.'

Dr Jodie Moffat, from Cancer Research UK, said: 'The message couldn't be clearer – too many patients have waited far too long for diagnostic tests or getting the results back. This must change. Waiting for a diagnosis is an exceptionally anxious time for patients, so it's vital that no one has to wait longer than necessary.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5192915/Prostate-diagnosis-shame-Men-wait-four-times-long.html#ixzz51si6u4Qy>
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From Left to Right Hazel Goulding (Treasurer) Leon D Wright (IT Admin) Stuart Marshall (Secretary) Steve Laird (Vice Chairman) Dave Riley (Chairman)

We are a group of local people who know about prostate cancer. We are a friendly organisation dedicated to offering support to men who have had or who are experiencing the effects of this potentially life threatening disease.

The East Lanc's Prostate Cancer Support Group offers a place for free exchange of information and help for local men and their supporters (family and friends) who may be affected by this increasingly common form of male cancer.

At each meeting we strive to be a happy, supportive and upbeat group of people; encouraging open discussion on what can be a very difficult and perhaps for some an

“Rudolph Gets His Nose So Bright”



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