

New Research Offers Reassurance About Localized Prostate Cancer Prognosis

People diagnosed with localized prostate cancer are unlikely to die from the cancer if they are treated according to NCCN Guidelines, finds a study published in JNCCN.

July 10, 2025 By National Comprehensive Cancer Network

New research in the July 2025 issue of [JNCCN—Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network](#) finds that for people diagnosed with nonmetastatic low-risk prostate cancer later in life, and treated according to NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines), 90% were likely to survive their cancer for their remaining life-expectancy. Of those with nonmetastatic higher-risk cancer and a longer life expectancy, that likelihood was still greater than 65%.

The researchers studied 62,839 people diagnosed with non-metastatic prostate cancer in Sweden between the years 2000–2020. All were placed within a defined risk category, had a life expectancy of more than three years, and were treated according to evidence-based, expert consensus-driven recommendations from the NCCN Guidelines for [Prostate Cancer](#). Those with low- and intermediate-risk cancer were six times more likely to die of other causes than prostate cancer. Those with high-risk cancer were still twice as likely to die of other causes.

“Our data support adherence to guideline recommendations for treatment of prostate cancer,” said lead researcher Pietro Scilipoti, MD, of Uppsala University in Sweden and IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital in Italy. “If guideline-recommended treatment is used, most people with prostate cancer will live for many years after diagnosis. That includes active surveillance as an excellent treatment strategy for appropriately selected people.”

The Gleason score/Grade Group, clinical TNM stage, treatment data, and other information for the study came from the National Prostate Cancer Register (NPCR) of Sweden. Life expectancy at the time of diagnosis was calculated based on age and comorbidity. Date and cause of death were taken from the Cause of Death Register.

“This study offers a big sigh of relief for many men facing a prostate cancer diagnosis,” commented Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, and member of the NCCN Guidelines Panel

for Prostate Cancer, who was not involved with this research. “It reveals that with NCCN Guidelines-recommended treatment, you’re significantly more likely to die from something else—up to six times more likely, in fact—even if your cancer is high-risk. This holds true even when looking at data from a different health care system, like Sweden’s. What’s truly striking is that for patients with low-risk prostate cancer, many of whom were on active surveillance, the 30-year mortality risk from the cancer itself was only about 11%. It really underscores the power of evidence-based treatment plans and the importance of focusing on a person’s overall health, not just their cancer.”

To read the entire study, “[Long-Term Outcomes After Guideline-Recommended Treatment of Men With Prostate Cancer](#),” visit [JNCCN.org](#).

The NCCN Guidelines for Prostate Cancer are now available in an interactive digital delivery format with advanced search capabilities. Learn more about the new NCCN Guidelines Navigator at [NCCN.org/navigator](#).

For people facing prostate cancer and their loved ones, NCCN offers two NCCN Guidelines for Patients focused on this disease type, separated into [Early](#) and [Advanced](#) Stage. An independent study found them to be among the [most trustworthy online resources](#) for patients and caregivers, worldwide. They are available for free at [NCCN.org/patientguidelines](#) thanks to funding from the [NCCN Foundation](#).

[This announcement](#) was originally published July 10, 2025, on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network website.