

# **Benefits and Harms of PSA Screening**

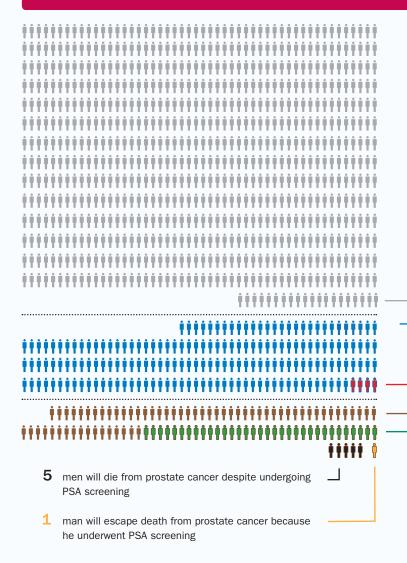


# The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care recommends against screening for prostate cancer with the PSA test

- The CTFPHC found that the potential small benefit from PSA screening is outweighed by the potential significant harms of the screening and associated follow-up treatment.
- · Men should understand that PSA screening may result in additional testing if the PSA level is raised.
- · To save one life we would need to diagnose an additional 27 men with prostate cancer

#### RESULTS OF SCREENING 1,000 MEN WITH THE PSA TEST

(age 55-69 years, screened over a 13-year period, and with a PSA screening threshold of 3.0 ng/ml)



### What are my risks if I don't get screened?

- Among men who <u>are screened</u> with the PSA test, the risk of dying from prostate cancer is 5 in 1,000
- Among men who <u>are not screened</u> with the PSA test, the risk of dying from prostate cancer is 6 in 1,000

men will have a negative PSA test

720

men with a positive PSA in whom follow-up testing does not identify prostate cancer of these 178 will experience biopsy complications such as infection and bleeding severe enough to require hospitalization

men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer

of these 102 prostate cancers would not have caused illness or death

Because of uncertainty about whether their cancer

Because of uncertainty about whether their cancer will progress, most men will choose treatment and may experience complications of treatment

## Complications of treatment for prostate cancer

For every 1,000 men who receive treatment for prostate cancer:

- 114-214 will have short-term complications such as infections, additional surgeries, and blood transfusions
- · 127-442 will experience long-term erectile dysfunction
- · up to 178 will experience urinary incontinence
- 4–5 will die from complications of prostate cancer treatment

Statistics for benefits and harms were calculated from the European Randomized Study of Screening for Prostate Cancer (ERSPC).