

PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

Who Should be Screened?

Doctors use a series of tests to diagnose prostate cancer, beginning with a digital rectal exam (DRE). Since the rectum is so close to the prostate gland, the doctor can feel for abnormalities by inserting a gloved finger into the rectum. While the DRE is useful in finding prostate cancer, many early cancers are missed by this method.

A Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test is an important diagnostic tool for detecting a chemical that could signify the presence of prostate cancer. When the PSA result is elevated or abnormally high, a patient typically undergoes a prostate biopsy under ultrasound to establish a definitive diagnosis.

Treatment Options

For patients diagnosed with prostate disease, Saint Luke's Cancer Institute offers two of the most promising treatments, brachytherapy and Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT).

- **Brachytherapy Treatment.** Brachytherapy involves the placement of radioactive materials directly into a prostate tumor. Temporary or permanent implants are placed in the cancerous tissue to deliver concentrated doses of radiation to diseased cells, while sparing injury to the surrounding healthy tissue.
- **IMRT.** IMRT uses imaging information from CT, MRI, and PET scans to precisely define the extent and location of the cancerous tissue. The medical staff uses computers to accurately aim beams of radiation at the cancer while minimizing the amount of radiation to the healthy normal tissue.



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For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (816) 932-9007.