

COVID-19 AND PROSTATE CANCER

A LOOK BACK AT OUR WEBINAR ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9

WINSTON MCQUADE, HOST

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PROCURE
Halte au cancer de la prostate.
The Force Against Prostate Cancer.

COVID-19 AND PROSTATE CANCER, THE 5 THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Prostate cancer does not increase your risk of getting coronavirus, or the risk of developing more severe symptoms. It remains relatively the same as for the rest of the population. Those at risk mainly concern the elderly - 70 years and over, and those who suffer from serious chronic health problems such as lung, heart or kidney disease, diabetes and various types of aggressive cancer.
2. The general guidelines for cancer centers are to sort out what type of treatments, surgeries, exams, medical follow-ups that may or may not be postponed to a later date, always taking into consideration the impact on your prognosis, your type of prostate cancer and the delays involved.
Rest assured, doctors are well aware of the risks linked to treatment, the COVID-19 infection risk, but also the risks associated with stopping your treatment, especially on the progression of your cancer. This is why an Oncology Vigilance Committee is in place and each patient file is combed through to determine whether or not there is an emergency to treat, in order to limit exposure to COVID-19.
For example, an aggressive prostate cancer or one at high risk of progression will be treated. However, if it is impossible to have access to surgery within an acceptable timeframe, several options can be considered, such as radiotherapy, or in the interim, hormone therapy to control the progression of the cancer and put it on hold before a surgery.
3. If your doctor decides to postpone your treatment, it is because he considers the risk of stopping treatment **much less important than the risk of developing a serious COVID 19 infection**, which could be life threatening. Fortunately, the majority of prostate cancers are diagnosed early, progress more slowly than other cancers, allowing flexibility in terms of treatment times, without harming you.
4. If an exam is to take place and an appointment is confirmed, or you need to initiate radiation therapy, don't be afraid to go. **The oncology centers have taken the necessary measures to ensure your safety**. You will be informed of these measures and what you need to do before your appointment.
5. To reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, and unless your doctor tells you otherwise, screening or follow-up appointments will be postponed, especially if your prostate cancer is stable and does not change, depending on the results of your PSA tests. **Your medical follow-up appointments will be made over the phone**, so you don't have to go to a hospital or clinic. All this for your safety.
Consult if you have urinary symptoms or any other symptoms. The CLSCs and walk-in clinics are there for you, as are our nurses, specialized in uro-oncology, at 1-855-899-2873.