

## **"Disease Free Survival Rates Following Irradiation of Prostate Cancer According to Age"**

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**PURPOSE:** In general, radical prostatectomy has been advocated for young men with prostate cancer and radiotherapy for older men. This concept is evaluated in men treated by brachytherapy.

**METHODS:** From August 1992 through November 1998, 1,555 men with stage T1, T2 prostate cancer were treated by simultaneous irradiation; prostate I-125 seed implant followed by external beam radiation. Based on their age at implant, men were divided into three groups with disease freedom defined by achieving and maintaining posttreatment PSA 0.2 ng/ml or less. Median followup is 4 years (3-9). Men were also subdivided into risk groups of low, intermediate and high risk based on their pretreatment PSA, Gleason score and stage.

**RESULTS OBTAINED:** The eight year disease free survival rate for men age 60 or less was 87% and was 85% for men age 61-70, no significant difference ( $p=0.4$ ). The eight year disease free survival rate for men age greater than 70 is 79% which differs significantly from men at an earlier age ( $p=0.001$ ). According to age group the percent of men in low, intermediate and high risk groups are 62%, 23% and 15% for 414 men age 60 or less, 49%, 34% and 17% for the 753 men age 61-70 and 38%, 33% and 29% for 389 men age greater than 70. Comparison of disease freedom by risk group according to age shows no significant difference.

**CONCLUSION:** Overall younger men have significantly better disease free survival rates than older men; however, older men present with more advanced disease. Age is not a prognostic factor when analysis is performed by risk group. Age should be considered when comparing treatment methods.