



Vasectomy Is NOT a Risk For Prostate Cancer

Data from a Population-based case-controlled study

Synopsis of the Study:

Concern was raised in 1990 about the possibility that vasectomy was a risk factor for developing prostate cancer. The authors identified as cases (n=923) all men living in New Zealand who were diagnosed with prostate cancer from April 1996 to December 1998. Controls (n=1224) were randomly selected from the general electoral roll, with frequency matching to cases in 5-year age groups (40 to 74 years). Cases and controls were telephone interviewed by evaluators blind to patient status. Patients being interviewed were unaware of the study hypothesis.

There was no association between prostate cancer and vasectomy (RR=0.92; 95% CI, 0.68-1.23) for more than 25 years since vasectomy. Adjustment for co-variables such as family history, social class, etc. did not affect the risk. The study had a 800% power to detect a relative risk of 1.5 or higher at the 5% level of significance after 25 years or more since vasectomy.

Bottom line:

Having a vasectomy does not increase a man's risk of developing prostate cancer, even after 25 years or more.

Reference:

Cox B, Sneyd MJ, Paul C, Delahunt B, Skegg DC. Vasectomy and risk of prostate cancer. JAMA 2002; 287:3110-5.

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