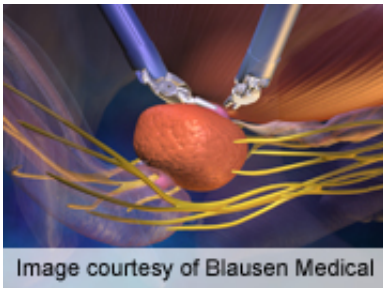


Radical prostatectomy doesn't cut mortality versus observation

July 19 2012



For men with clinically localized prostate cancer, radical prostatectomy does not significantly reduce all-cause or prostate-cancer mortality compared with observation through 12 years of follow-up, according to a study published in the July 19 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

(HealthDay) -- For men with clinically localized prostate cancer, radical prostatectomy does not significantly reduce all-cause or prostate-cancer mortality compared with observation through 12 years of follow-up, according to a study published in the July 19 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Timothy J. Wilt, M.D., M.P.H., from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine in Minneapolis, and colleagues randomly assigned 731 men with localized prostate cancer (mean age, 67 years; median prostate-specific antigen [PSA] value, 7.8 ng/mL) to radical [prostatectomy](#) (364 men) or observation (367 men), from November 1994 through January 2002. Patients were followed for a median of 10.0

years, through January 2010.

The researchers found that 47 and 49.9 percent, respectively, of the men in the radical prostatectomy and observation groups died (hazard ratio, 0.88; $P = 0.22$). Death from prostate cancer or treatment occurred for 5.8 and 8.4 percent assigned to radical prostatectomy and observation, respectively (hazard ratio, 0.63; $P = 0.09$). Among men with a [PSA value](#) greater than 10 ng/mL, radical prostatectomy correlated with decreased all-cause mortality ($P = 0.04$), and a possible decrease was seen for those with intermediate- or high-risk tumors ($P = 0.07$). Within 30 days after surgery 21.4 percent of men experienced adverse events, including one death.

"In conclusion, our study showed that, as compared with observation, [radical prostatectomy](#) did not significantly reduce all-cause or prostate-cancer mortality through at least 12 years among men with clinically localized prostate cancer that had been diagnosed in the era of PSA testing," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed [financial ties](#) to the pharmaceutical and medical device/technology industries; one author disclosed providing expert testimony for medical malpractice law suits.

More information: [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)
[Editorial \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2012 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Radical prostatectomy doesn't cut mortality versus observation (2012, July 19) retrieved 4 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-07-radical-prostatectomy-doesnt-mortality.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.