

Patient-physician communication is critical for prostate cancer survivors' health

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For prostate cancer patients who had their prostates surgically removed, patient-physician communication was key for helping them cope with their disease and for improving their health-related quality of life.

The authors of the 1772-patient study note that patient-physician communication is not only a question of patients' [wellbeing](#) or feeling accepted, but an issue of physical, cognitive, emotional, and [social functioning](#) when living with localized prostate cancer and dealing with the side effects of treatments.

"At least 3 years after [prostatectomy](#), patient-physician communication is associated with patients' quality of life. Efforts to build and maintain a trustful relationship should be part of long-term follow-up care for prostate cancer patients and survivors," said Dr. Nicole Ernstmann, lead author of the *BJU International* study.

More information: N Ernstmann et al, Patient-physician-communication and health related quality of life of localized prostate cancer patients undergoing radical prostatectomy - a longitudinal multilevel analysis, *BJU International* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/bju.13495](https://doi.org/10.1111/bju.13495)

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