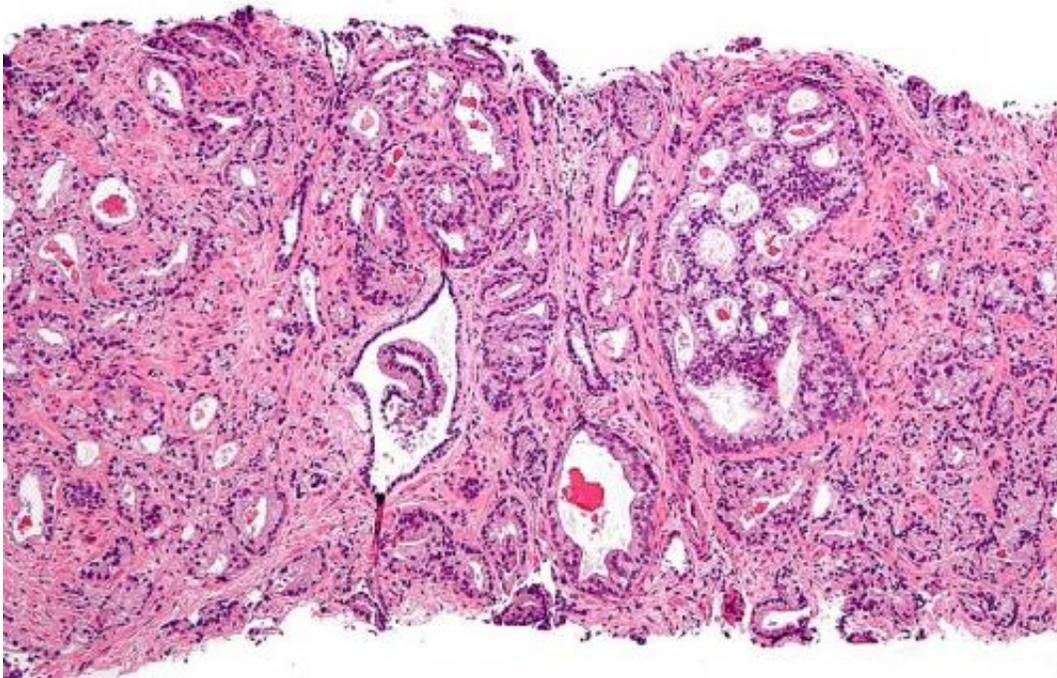


Similar survival of African-American and white men with prostate cancer in an equal-access health care system

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Micrograph showing prostatic acinar adenocarcinoma (the most common form of prostate cancer) Credit: Wikipedia, [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

Among men with prostate cancer who received care from the Veterans Affairs (VA) Health System, an equal-access health care system, African American men did not have more advanced disease at the time of diagnosis or die earlier than white men, unlike trends seen in the greater

U.S. population of patients with prostate cancer. The findings are published early online in *Cancer*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society.

African American men in the general U.S. population are more than twice as likely to die from [prostate cancer](#) as non-Hispanic white men. To examine whether access to health care may play a role in this disparity, a team led by Brent Rose, MD, of the University of California San Diego School of Medicine and the VA San Diego Healthcare System, analyzed information on more than 20 million veterans who receive care through the VA Health System. The analysis included 60,035 men diagnosed with prostate cancer between 2000 and 2015: 30.3 percent were African American and 69.7 percent were non-Hispanic white.

The researchers found that African American men were not more likely to experience delays in diagnosis and care. Also, African American men were not more likely to present with more advanced disease. Finally, African American men were not more likely to die from their disease. These outcomes for African American men were seen even though they were more likely to live in lower-income areas.

The findings indicate that African American men who receive equitable screening and treatment can expect to have relatively similar outcomes as [white men](#). Access to high-quality medical care may help address some of the racial disparities seen among men diagnosed with the disease.

"These results suggest that poorer outcomes for African American men with prostate cancer may not be a foregone conclusion. With smart public policy choices, we may be able to reduce or even eliminate disparities and achieve equal outcomes for all men with prostate cancer," said Dr. Rose.

More information: *CANCER* (2020). [DOI: 10.1002/cncr.32666](https://doi.org/10.1002/cncr.32666)

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