

More time between prostate cancer screenings could improve outcomes

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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/)

A new study in *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, published by Oxford University Press, finds significant benefits to lengthening the amount of time between prostate cancer screenings for men.

Prostate [cancer](#) is one of the most common cancers in men, affecting one in seven men over the course of his lifetime. A [blood test](#) called a

[prostate](#) specific antigen (PSA) test, which measures the levels of PSA in the blood, has been used to screen for [prostate cancer](#) for decades, because levels of PSA in the [blood](#) can be higher in men who have prostate cancer. But PSA levels are higher in other conditions that affect the prostate, such as certain [medical procedures](#) and medications, as well as an enlarged prostate or a prostate infection. Research regarding the effectiveness of such screenings in identifying and treating men with prostate cancer has so far been inconclusive.

Previous studies have shown that men with low PSA levels (

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