

Prostatype

Genetic test to determine how aggressive your prostate cancer is

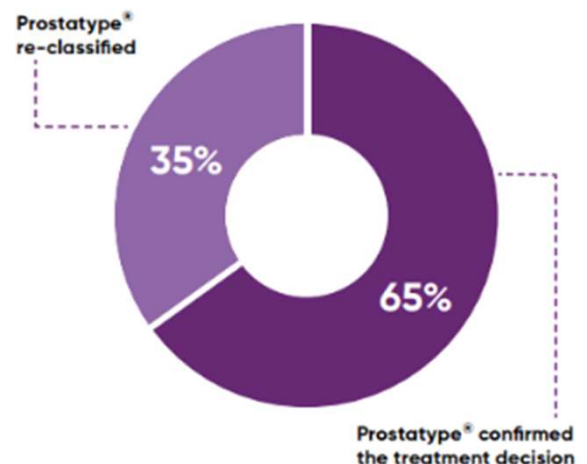
Prostatype tests your biopsy cells to determine how aggressive your prostate cancer is, and whether it is likely to become life-threatening over the next 10 years *without* treatment. This advanced, personalised insight into how your cancer could progress helps you and your doctor decide whether treatment is necessary.

For some, prostate cancer grows rapidly and therefore requires treatment immediately. However, in many cases the prostate cancer grows slowly and is not life-threatening. In these instances, it can be monitored, and the patient doesn't need to undergo treatment unless it progresses.

To assess your tumour, a pathologist examines biopsy cells under a microscope and assigns a Gleason Score and tumour stage, which describe how advanced the prostate cancer is. However, this relies on visual assessment and human interpretation, so determining the aggressiveness of a tumour can be difficult. This often leaves doctors and patients facing the tricky decision of proceeding with treatment 'just in case', or regularly monitoring the cancer for progression. This can lead to overtreatment in some cases, and undertreatment in others.

Here, Prostatype can be used to help make a more accurate, informed decision. It analyses stem cell biomarkers, so doesn't rely on human visual interpretation. The information goes into an algorithm based on extensive research to give a score for how aggressive the tumour is, which can be used to guide treatment.

Using Prostatype, 35% of patients are reclassified from treatment to active surveillance or vice versa. Therefore, using Prostatype means you can avoid unnecessary treatment or delays to treatment.



FAQs

What does Prostatype measure?

Prostatype analyses the genes in prostate stem cells. The genes it looks at are IGFBP3, F3 and VGLL3, which have been found to predict the aggressiveness of prostate cancer and long-term survival. These genes are found in prostate “stem cells”, which are cells that can initiate tumour formation. Changes to the way these genes are expressed are one of the first things to happen when prostate cancer is developing.

How accurate is the test?

Studies show that Prostatype improves the accuracy of predicting prostate cancer mortality compared to current clinical tools and other available tests (e.g., D’Amico). It is therefore regarded as a useful additional tool for doctors and patients to make more informed decisions. You can find the research papers here - <https://www.prostatypegenomics.com/publications-and-posters/>.

What do the results tell me?

The results give you a P-Score which tells you the aggressiveness of the tumour and translates to your risk of dying from prostate cancer in the next 10 years if you *don’t* have treatment. Scores of 0-2 are classed as low risk and recommends active surveillance. A score of 2-5 is a low/intermediate risk – you should be given the option for active surveillance, but you should be monitored more closely than the low-risk group. A score above 5 would be recommended for treatment.



Scan the QR code to see a sample results report, or visit <https://www.camclinlabs.co.uk/prostatype>.

Who can use Prostatype?

Newly diagnosed patients who want to know how aggressive their prostate cancer is, and if they require treatment immediately. Also, patients who have previously been diagnosed with prostate cancer and have been in active surveillance, who want to see how their prostate cancer has progressed can use Prostatype. These patients will need to undergo another biopsy, so that the test can be performed on a recent sample.

How do I get a Prostatype test?

Ask your doctor/nurse to contact Cambridge Clinical Laboratories to order a Prostatype test for you. Your doctor will receive your results and make an appointment to discuss them with you.

Do I have to pay for Prostatype?

Unfortunately, Prostatype is not yet covered by the NHS so you will need to pay for the test. Your doctor/nurse can discuss the costs with you.

Why does the NHS not use this test?

Prostatype is fairly new to the UK, therefore it is not yet included in the NICE guidelines, which are followed by the NHS. It is used in Sweden, Spain, Switzerland and Portugal.