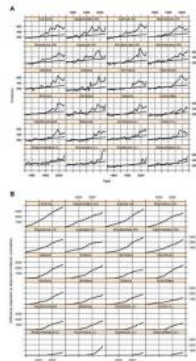


# PSA-testing and early treatment decreases risk of prostate cancer death

10 March 2014

Counties ranked by the cumulative difference between observed and predicted prostate cancer incidence per 100000 from 1995 through 2002.



Stattin P et al. JNCI J Natl Cancer Inst 2014;jnci.dju007

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Counties are ranked by the cumulative difference between observed and predicted prostate cancer incidence per 100,000 from 1995 through 2002. Credit: Oxford University Press 2014

Mortality in prostate cancer is lower in areas with frequent use of PSA testing compared with areas with little testing shows a study published online today in *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* by researchers from Umeå University, Sweden and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA.

The study is based on data from nation-wide, population-based registers in Sweden including the Cancer Register, The Cause of Death Register and the National Prostate Cancer Register (NPCR) of Sweden.

"Our results show that [prostate cancer](#) mortality was 20 percent lower in counties with the highest incidence of prostate cancer, indicating an early and rapid uptake of PSA testing, compared with counties with a slow and late increase in PSA testing," says Pär Stattin, lead investigator of the

study.

"Since the difference in the number of men diagnosed with prostate cancer is related to how many men undergo PSA testing, we think our data shows that PSA testing and early treatment is related to a modest decrease in risk of prostate cancer death," says Håkan Jonsson statistician and senior author of the study.

"In contrast to screening in randomized studies our data is based on unorganized, real life PSA testing. We therefore used a statistical method that excludes men that were diagnosed prior to the introduction of PSA testing since these men could not benefit from the effect of PSA testing," continues Håkan Jonsson.

"The results in our study are very similar to those obtained in a large European randomized clinical study (ERSPC) thus confirming the effect of PSA testing on the risk of prostate cancer death. However, we have to bear in mind that the decrease in mortality is offset by overtreatment and side effects from early treatment. PSA testing sharply increases the risk of overtreatment, i.e. early treatment of cancers that would never have surfaced clinically. We also know that after surgery for prostate cancer most men have decreased erectile function and that a small group of men suffer from urinary incontinence. Our data pinpoints the need for refined methods for PSA testing and improved [prostate cancer treatment](#) strategies," concludes Dr. Stattin.

**More information:** [jnci.oxfordjournals.org/content/.../jnci.dju007.abstract](http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/content/.../jnci.dju007.abstract)

Provided by Umea University

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