

CHAPTER 6

The Social Dimensions of Prostate Cancer in Gay Men's Sexuality

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CHAPTER SUMMARY

Much of the research on men and prostate cancer has neglected gay and bisexual men. Assumptions are made that gay men are men too, so they must have the same experiences as heterosexual men. Recent research, however, has shown marked differences between gay and bisexual men and heterosexual men in diagnosis, treatment, care, and support. This chapter considers the recent research that is beginning to understand gay men's different experiences of prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment, arguing that a focus on the social dimensions of gay men's sexuality is needed. Three issues are explored: gay sex and sexuality, gay relationships and gay community, and HIV infection.

KEY TERMS

gay community, gay men, gay relationships, HIV infection, sex, sex-based sociality, sexuality

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Other Battles Some Gay Men With Prostate Cancer Face. While gay men seem to have about the same rates of prostate cancer as men in general "making it the most diagnosed cancer among all men, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" a review conducted by Rosser and colleagues suggests that gay survivors have poorer sexual functioning and lower quality of life. Researchers' interviews with men hint at numerous reasons why.Â But for many gay men, working with a provider who knows and honors their sexual orientation is important in part because more often than straight men, "sex, at some point has been a critical part of their personal story," Hoyt says. The social dimension of prostate cancer in gay men's sexuality. Much of the research on men and prostate cancer has neglected gay and bisexual men. Assumptions are made that gay men are men too, so they must have the same experiences as heterosexual men. Recent research, however, has shown marked more. Much of the research on men and prostate cancer has neglected gay and bisexual men. Assumptions are made that gay men are men too, so they must have the same experiences as heterosexual men. Recent research, however, has shown marked differences between gay and bisexual men and heterosexual m...

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