

Below the Belt 411: Do You Have Ⓢ The Right Information About Prostatitis?

(NAPSA)—Men often hear messages about the importance of regular prostate cancer screening as they get older. However, men of all ages should also speak to their doctors about a more common prostate condition—prostatitis. It is a disorder that affects about half of the male population at some point in their lives, but still continues to go under-recognized.

Prostatitis, an inflammation of the prostate gland, a walnut-sized gland responsible for producing fluid for semen, has become the most neglected male urological condition in the United States. Many Americans have little knowledge of this sometimes serious and often painful condition. Read on to debunk myths and get the straight facts about this common condition.

MYTH: Because the prostate gland is so small, there are no symptoms when someone gets prostatitis.

FACT: The symptoms of prostatitis can include fever, chills and pain in the lower back and genital area that can become severe. Symptoms also can include the frequent urge to urinate or difficulty in doing so and nighttime trips to the bathroom.

MYTH: Prostatitis only affects men over the age of 50; I don't need to worry about it.

FACT: While the incidence among the male population increases with age, prostatitis can affect men of all ages. In fact, prostatitis accounts for one-quarter of physician visits for genital and urinary complaints among young and middle-aged men. So don't think this is just your grandfather's ailment!

MYTH: Prostatitis is always an indicator of prostate cancer,

and I just don't want to know about it.

FACT: Although prostatitis and prostate cancer can co-exist, prostatitis is non-cancerous, and there is no evidence to suggest that it leads to cancer. However, it is important to check out all symptoms with a healthcare professional.

MYTH: It is extremely difficult to diagnose prostatitis because the symptoms are similar to other conditions.

FACT: Prostatitis can be easily diagnosed by a variety of tests that a doctor may perform to determine if bacteria are the cause, including a series of tests that analyze urine. A common test, the digital rectal exam, may be conducted by a physician to check the size, shape and state of the prostate gland.

MYTH: There is no treatment for prostatitis.

FACT: If you are diagnosed with chronic bacterial prostatitis, your doctor may prescribe an antibiotic, such as Cipro® (ciprofloxacin).

Treatment with Cipro® may result in certain side effects that are usually mild and may include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain or discomfort, headache and rash. As with any prescription, tell your physician about any other medications you may be taking. Remember, your doctor or healthcare provider is the single best source of information regarding you and your health. Consult your doctor if you have any questions about your health, medication, or any symptoms you may be having.

For more information about Cipro® or full prescribing information, go to www.CiproUSA.com.