CHAPTER 19

Looking Back

Engaging Prostate Cancer as a Gay Man at the Turn of the Twenty-first Century

Gerald Perlman

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter reflects my experience with prostate cancer as a gay man seeking help in the painfully heterosexist environment of 2000. The narrative looks back at my feelings, my reactions, my concerns, and my revelations and awakenings as I struggled with my own confusing search for help, compassion, and understanding in an environment that was quite unfriendly to gay men. I write of my wrestling with issues of helplessness, identity, anger, sex, shame, and loss, and how I went from being a participant in a support group for gay men to facilitator of that group of courageous men, all of whom found themselves in a similar situation.

KEY TERMS

gay men, heterosexism, HIV/AIDS, impotence, incontinence, prostate cancer, radiation, sex, side effects, support groups

Usher, Jane M., Perz, Janette, Rosser, B. R. Simon, eds., Gay & Bisexual Men Living with Prostate Cancer
dx.doi.org/10.17312/harringtonparkpress/2018.06.gbmLPC.019
© 2018 Harrington Park Press
REFERENCES


Prostate cancer is a fatal disease that strikes down 1 in every 6 men! Take the time to inform yourself and your loved ones of the dangers, know the signs, be ready...just in case. Cancer cells travel in blood and lymph systems. Prostate- Male reproductive gland responsible for producing a fluid within semen. Located below the bladder and in front of the rectum. Metastasis- The process of cancer spreading from point A in the body to point B in the body. Tumor- A tissue mass resulting after cells fail to die when they should, or due to abnormal cell division. Tumors are often referred to again in more specific terms: Benign (bah-nine) tumor, which is non-cancerous; and the malignant tumor, the cancerous one. Prostate cancer typically develops in men after they turn 40, meaning it’s important for middle-aged men to be vigilant. Clinton personally believe that screening is important for men, and it’s particularly important for African-American men. Even more important, if someone has a first-degree relative meaning a father or a brother with prostate cancer, they should be screened and educated appropriately, said Clinton. We hope that increased knowledge of the factors that cause prostate cancer will provide us with new ways to identify African-American men, and men in general, who are at risk of developing aggressive prostate cancer and hopefully also help us in terms of the development of positive screening and prevention strategies. Two prostate cancer cells in the final stage of cell division. Photograph: Steve Gschmeissner/Getty Images/Science Photo Library RM. Haroon Siddique. Published on Thu 13 Jul 2017 01.00 BST. They say obese men may be less likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer, because they have lower concentrations of prostate-specific antigens, are less likely to undergo a biopsy and tend to have larger prostates, making detection more difficult. A reduced likelihood of early detection and treatment might lead to greater incidence of aggressive disease and higher mortality, the researchers suggest. The analysis drew from data on 141,896 men, nearly all of whom were white, in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition.