

PSA Test

This is a blood test that measures the level of PSA in the blood stream. PSA or prostate specific antigen is a protein produced exclusively by prostate cells. Normal prostate cells and prostate cancer cells can produce PSA however prostate cancer cells will leak more PSA into the blood stream. It is normal for all men who have a prostate to have a small amount of PSA in their blood stream.

A raised PSA can be a sign of prostate cancer but there may be other causes for a raised PSA and some men with a normal PSA can have prostate cancer.

Causes of elevation of the PSA include:

- ❖ Prostate cancer.
- ❖ Prostatitis (inflammation of the prostate).
- ❖ Benign enlargement of the prostate.
- ❖ Urinary track infection.
- ❖ The PSA level generally rises as part of the ageing process.
- ❖ Vigorous exercise and ejaculation may cause a mild.
- ❖ Transient elevation of the PSA.
- ❖ Surgical instrumentation of the lower urinary tract.

Clinical use of PSA test:

- ❖ Detection of prostate cancer. The PSA test is used in conjunction with the digital rectal examination to identify men who require a prostate biopsy to confirm to detect prostate cancer.
- ❖ To monitor the progress of prostate cancer in patients who have been treated or are on active surveillance.

For further information contact Dr Enzo Lazzaro Ph 029982 4477

Disclaimer. This information is of a general nature, it is not intended as a substitute for your own independent advice from your doctor