



Repeat PSA Screening for Virulent Prostate Cancer

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Technology description

Invention Description:

The subject invention uses available repeat prostate-specific antigen (PSA) measures from the NCI-funded Prostate Lung Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial (PLCO) to predict subsequent diagnosis of clinically significant prostate cancer.

Background :

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in the United States and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men. It is generally a lower-risk cancer for which the treatment is often worse than the disease. The increased detection of low-risk prostate cancer based on PSA screenings is the foundation of the controversy that has led to recommendations against screening. Essentially, the current problems can be summarized as either over-treatment of indolent, low-risk disease that if left untreated has little chance of harming the patient but whose treatment can cause great harm ranging from infections to incontinence; or under-treating virulent, high-risk disease which is likely to be fatal. This technology is an effective way to detect life-threatening prostate cancer and distinguish it from other conditions associated with elevated PSA.

Application area

- Detection of virulent (i.e., high-risk, clinically relevant) prostate cancer using PSA alone or in combination with other screening methods

Advantages

- Distinguishes virulent prostate cancer from other prostate-related conditions that may be associated with elevated PSA concentration in blood

Institution

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