



Current Follow-Up Care Pathway vs. a New 'Psychosexual' Pathway

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Current follow-up care focuses on treatment of acute disease only [1]. As above, PSA is used for prostate cancer surveillance. However, clear new evidence based psychosexual pathway is required. For an alternative pathway of follow-up to be developed, there are some core principles which must be considered.

Firstly, focused assessment and treatment of side effects of therapy including psychosexual concerns should be undertaken as part of outpatient assessment [2]. Secondly, side effects of therapy-erectile dysfunction (ED) needs early assessment and treatment. The, assessment of the patient post-surgery, should be undertaken after the catheter has been removed and the patient started on a medical tablet (PDE5 inhibitors) to help with erections where appropriate. According to clinical practice, this is usually started at 6 weeks post operatively, if not sooner [2]. However, prostate cancer survivorship pathways should be examined to see if this is truly the case.

References

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2. Ferrell BR, Winn R. Medical and nursing education and training opportunities to improve survivorship care. *J Clin Oncol.* 2006;24:5142–8.