



Benefits and Harms of PSA Screening

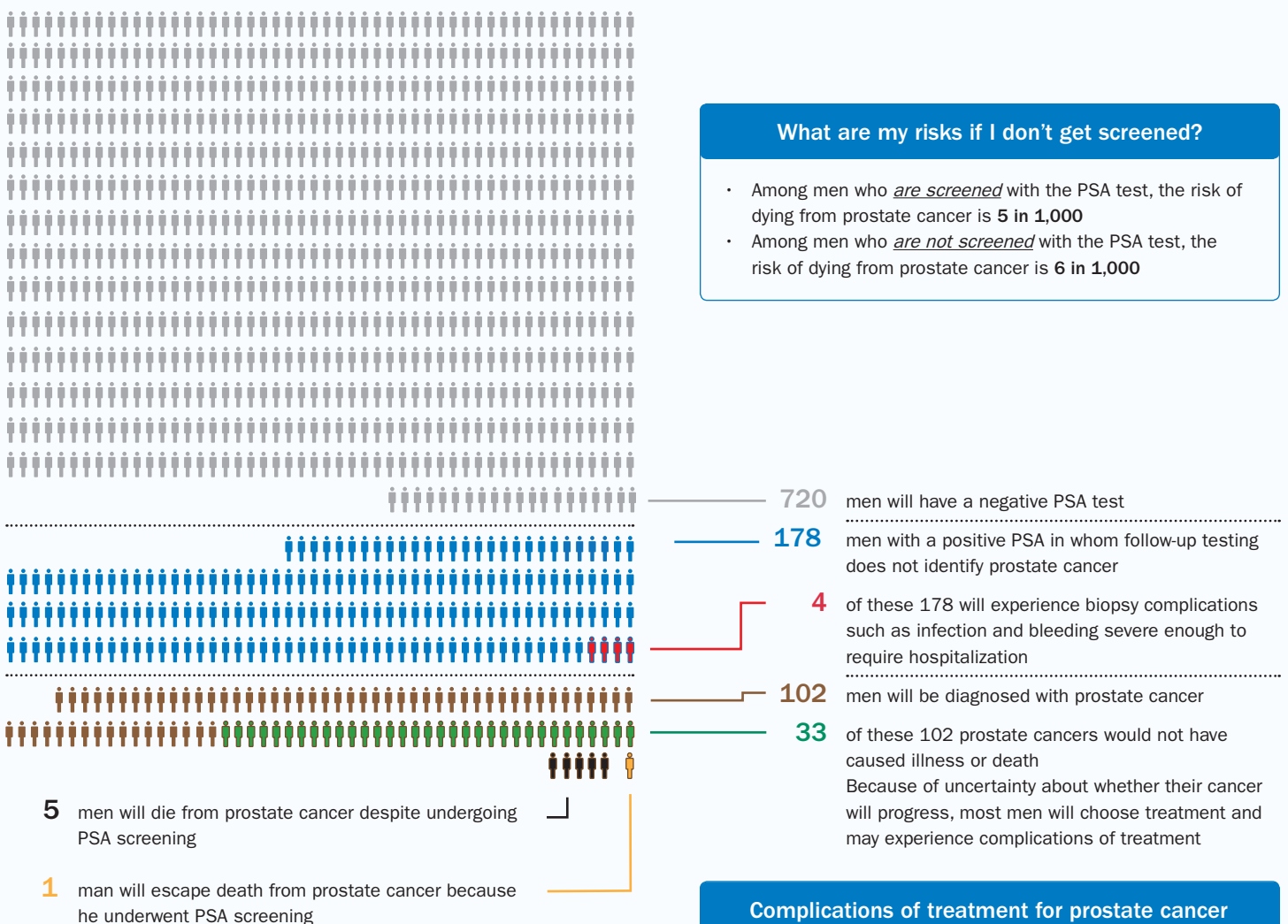


The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care recommends against screening for prostate cancer with the PSA test

- The CTFPHC found that the potential small benefit from PSA screening is outweighed by the potential significant harms of the screening and associated follow-up treatment.
- Men should understand that PSA screening may result in additional testing if the PSA level is raised.
- To save one life we would need to diagnose an additional 27 men with prostate cancer

RESULTS OF SCREENING 1,000 MEN WITH THE PSA TEST

(age 55–69 years, screened over a 13-year period, and with a PSA screening threshold of 3.0 ng/ml)



Complications of treatment for prostate cancer

- For every 1,000 men who receive treatment for prostate cancer:
- 114–214 will have short-term complications such as infections, additional surgeries, and blood transfusions
 - 127–442 will experience long-term erectile dysfunction
 - up to 178 will experience urinary incontinence
 - 4–5 will die from complications of prostate cancer treatment