

Pickens County Herald

OUR WEB SITE: WWW.PCHERALD.COM

OUR E-MAIL: PICKENSCNTY@CENTURYTEL.NET

VOLUME 164 NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Prostate screening in county successful, others to follow all over the state

The Urology Centers of Alabama, the Urology Health Foundation and the Pickens County Health Department screened 45 local men free for prostate cancer on Feb. 4.

The men screened recognized the importance of early detection and screening for prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the second leading killer (behind lung cancer) among men in the USA. One in six men (one in four African American men) will have prostate cancer sometime in their life.

"Early detection and treatment are key factors in addressing prostate cancer", said Dr. Thomas E. Moody, president of the Urology Health Foundation. No one knows the exact cause of prostate cancer. Doctors can seldom explain why one man develops the disease and another does not.

Research has shown that men with certain risk factors are more likely than others to develop prostate cancer. A risk factor is something that may increase the chance of developing a disease. Age is the strongest risk factor for prostate cancer. The disease is rare in men younger than 40, but the chance of getting it goes up sharply as a man ages.

A man's risk of prostate cancer is higher than average if his brother, father or uncle had the disease. Race is also a risk factor for prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is particularly important for African American men because they are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and their death rate from this disease is two and one-half times greater than the rate for Caucasian men.

Because there are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer while it is still in the early stages according to Dr. Moody that is why screening is so critical. In more

advanced stages, symptoms may include difficult or frequent urination, blood in the urine or bone pain. Every man age 40 or over should resolve to be screened annually.

Screening for prostate cancer involves a simple blood test called a PSA that measures the level of protein called prostate-specific antigen in the blood. Normally PSA is found in the blood at very low levels. Elevated PSA readings can be a sign of prostate cancer. A physical examination is also given to detect prostate cancer. This exam is called a DRE or digital rectal exam. These tests take approximately 10 minutes to perform and could save a man's life.

If a man missed the free prostate cancer screening on Saturday, Urology Centers of Alabama and the Urology Health Foundation will be offering these screenings in the following counties:

March 31: Pike County Health Department
April 14: Sumter County Health Department
May 5: Choctaw County Health Department
May 19: Lawrence County Health Department
June 9: Butler County Health Department
August 18: Monroe County Health Department
September 22: Perry County Health Department
October 6: Hale County Health Department
October 27: Wilcox County Health Department
November 3: Conecuh County Health Department
November 17: Marengo County Health Department.



SCREENING FOR PROSTATE CANCER HAS GOOD TURNOUT — The Urology Centers of Alabama, the Urology Health Foundation and the Pickens County Health Department screened 45 men free for prostate cancer on Feb. 4. Participating during the screening are, left to right, patient Amos Jones; Rhonda Christian, the nurse drawing the blood; Marnetta McDaniel, nurse; Dr. Thomas Moody with Urology Centers of Alabama; and Dr. Mrinal Dhar with West Alabama Urology Associates.