The Effects of Prostate Cancer on Sexual Intimacy in Heterosexual Relationships


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Introduction. The aim of this study is to assess the effect of the diagnosis and management of Prostate Cancer on couple intimacy, such as to offer men and their partners recovering from Prostate Cancer a better understanding of what they may face, and inform health professionals on how Prostate Cancer treatment outcomes are likely to effect a couples intimacy levels in relationships.

Method. The method used for this research project is Qualitative Research in the form of a semi structured, in dept interviews. Interviews are recorded and transcribed for the purpose of data analysis. Couples need to have been married or partnered for at least 15 years and be in a heterosexual relationship. Each person is interviewed separately and interview is recorded for data collection. The questions are designed to address specific areas of health, sexual intimacy, self confidence, and relationship and Quality of Life satisfaction.

Outcomes. This study will focus on the ways in which intimacy needs can be met in response to the psychological, physiological and behavioural changes resulting from the disease. This information will provide an evidence base for the production of educational materials that will assist sufferers from Prostate cancer adapt to changes resulting from their disease, and help their spouses and health professionals treating them to develop strategies that ensure intimacy needs are met.