

Permanent Side Effects of Treatment Choices

How to use this table

Read across to learn how often side effects for each treatment happen.

Read down to compare treatments.

	Watchful Waiting	Surgery	External "beam" radiation	Internal "seed" radiation (Brachytherapy)
Problems with erection (Impotence)	Rare	60 in 100	45 in 100	45 in 100
Problems holding urine or leaking (Incontinence)	Rare	9 in 100	Rare	2 to 4 in 100
Passing urine: Painful or frequent	Rare	Rare	8 in 100	10 to 20 in 100
Loose bowels (Diarrhea)	Rare	Rare	8 in 100	8 in 100
Risk of dying from treatment (Death)	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare

For the first 3 months after treatment many more men have the side effects in the left column as temporary side effects.

The numbers used in this booklet come from many doctors, patients, and published articles.

They are averages for patients of all ages. In general, younger patients may have fewer problems from treatment.