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High Grade Pin (Prostatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia)

The results of your prostate biopsy show High Grade PIN. This is a potentially precancerous change in the prostate tissue. High grade PIN is made up of prostate cells that have mutated to the point that they could become prostate cancer. The cells that make up high grade PIN are nearly identical to those that make up prostate cancer, but they are still contained and have not yet spread into the rest of the prostate tissue. High grade PIN is a warning sign that a patient may be at higher risk for developing prostate cancer. There have been studies that show men with high grade PIN are more prone to develop prostate cancer. Having high grade PIN can be a greater concern than just having an elevated serum PSA. Serum PSA is a marker for changes in prostate tissue – not necessarily the presence of prostate cancer. Conditions other than prostate cancer that more commonly raise serum PSA levels are: prostatitis (prostate infection), urinary tract infection, BPH (benign prostate enlargement), and ejaculation within 2 days of the blood draw for PSA. In fact, the majority of men who have elevated PSA do not have prostate cancer. Unlike prostate cancer, high grade PIN may not cause the serum PSA to become elevated. This is because the mutated cells of high grade PIN, unlike invasive prostate cancer cells, have not spread to be in contact with the blood vessels. Currently there is not an FDA approved treatment for high grade PIN. Surgery or radiation is too aggressive for patients who only have high grade PIN. Therefore, once you have been diagnosed with high grade PIN it is important to continue follow-up as recommended by your physician.