

PROSTATE CANCER

THE PROSTATE

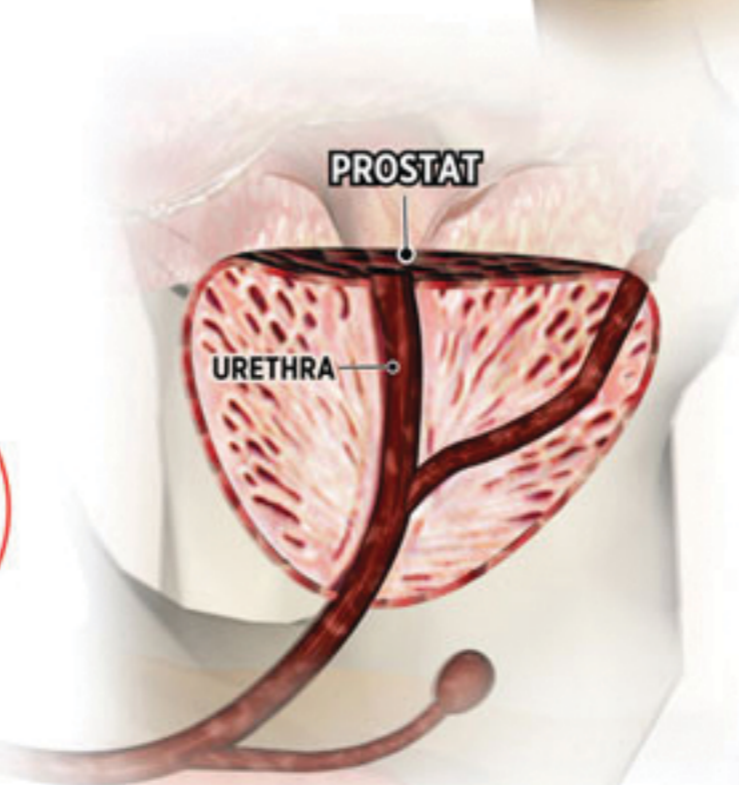
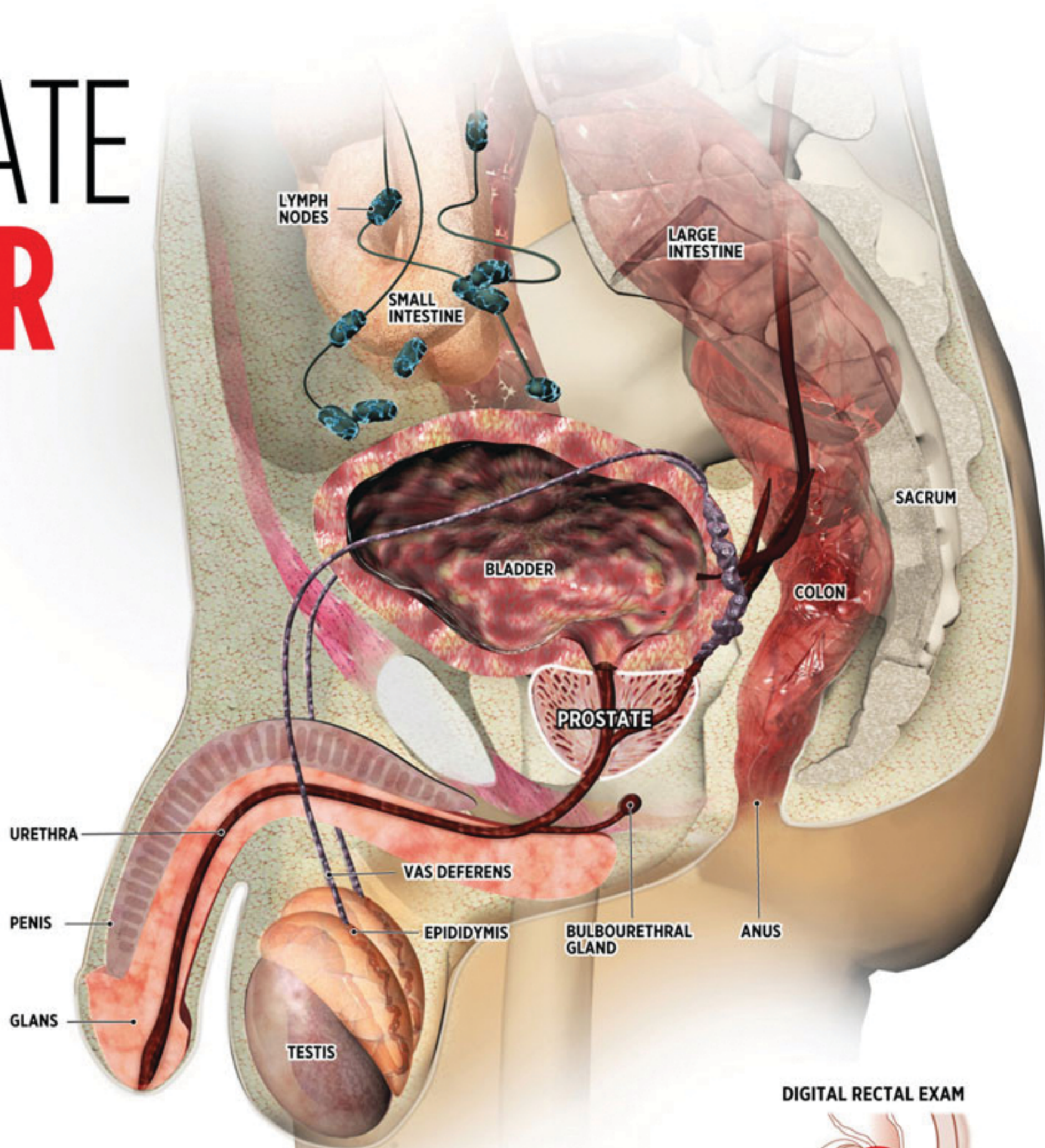
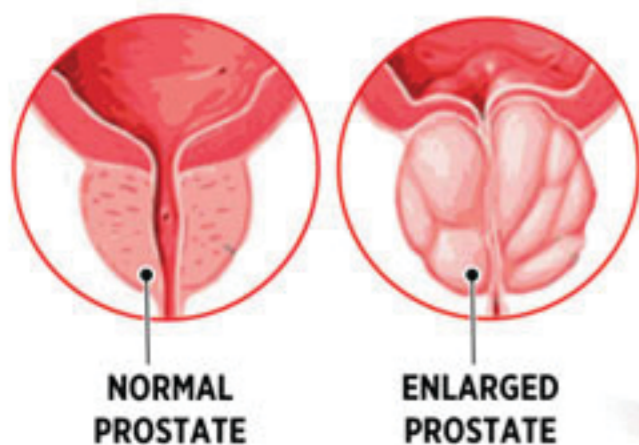
The prostate is a walnut-sized gland located in front of the rectum, just below the bladder. It produces seminal fluid, which nourishes sperm cells in semen. The urethra (the tube that carries urine from the bladder to outside the body) runs through the center of the prostate.

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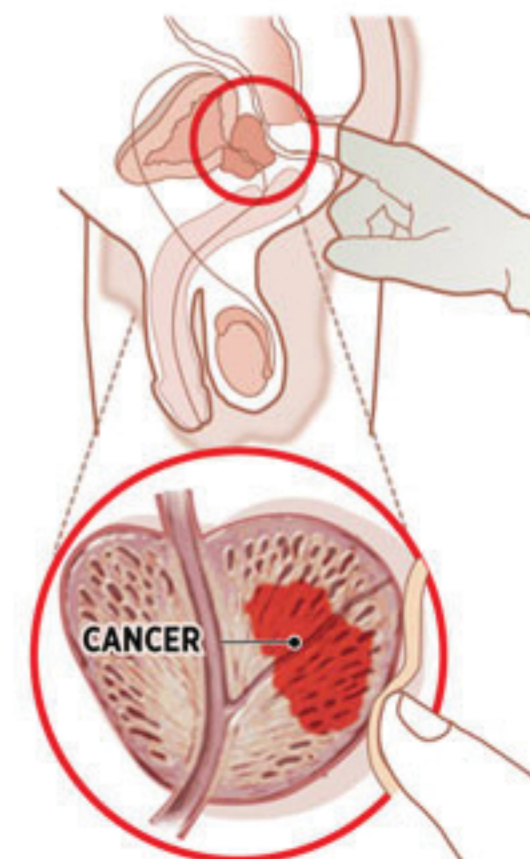
It occurs when malignant tumors form in the prostate. Few men have symptoms in the early stages. African Americans and men with a family history of the disease – both at higher risk – should have a PSA test every year from age 40 on. For others, a PSA test every year after 50 is recommended.

ENLARGED PROSTATE

As men age, the prostate may grow and block the flow of urine from the bladder to the urethra. This condition is called benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Although some may confuse its symptoms with cancer, it is not cancerous. Medication can treat it, although surgery may be needed.



DIGITAL RECTAL EXAM



DIAGNOSIS

Two types of testing are strongly suggested:

1. PSA testing:

Test that measures the level of prostate-specific antigen in the blood. PSA is a substance made by the prostate; its levels increase with cancer.

2. Digital rectal exam:

The doctor inserts a lubricated, gloved finger into the rectum and feels the prostate through the rectal wall for lumps or abnormal areas.