



Editorial Comment: A 16-yr Follow-up of the European Randomized study of Screening for Prostate Cancer

Hugosson J¹, Roobol MJ², Månsson M³, Tammela TLJ⁴, Zappa M⁵, Nelen V⁶, et al.

¹ Department of Urology, Institute of Clinical Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Göteborg, Göteborg, Sweden; ² Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; ³ Department of Urology, Institute of Clinical Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Göteborg, Göteborg, Sweden; ⁴ University of Tampere, Faculty of Medicine and Life Sciences, Tampere, Finland; ⁵ ISPRO, Oncological network, Prevention, and Research Institute, Florence, Italy; ⁶ Provinciaal Instituut voor Hygiëne, Antwerp, Belgium

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Felipe Lott¹

¹ Instituto Nacional do Câncer – INCA, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

COMMENT

This is the 16 years follow-up of the European Randomized study of Screening for Prostate Cancer (ERSPC) that was initiated in 1993 and previously published with 9, 11, and 13 years of follow-up (1-3). This trial try to elucidate the effect of regular prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening on prostate cancer (PCa) mortality.

This paper shows that the absolute reduction in PCa mortality still increases with longer follow-up, while the relative risk reduction remains at 20% since the initial report (1-3). There is still a 41% excess incidence in the screening arm. The median follow-up from diagnosis is modest (8.8 years in the screening arm and 5.4 years in the control arm) given the natural course of PCa.

The number needed to diagnose for averting one PCa death was 18 in this update paper and was much higher in the previous ones.

This high level evidence publication shows that the absolute effect of screening on PCa mortality increases with longer follow-up.

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Felipe Lott, MD

*Instituto Nacional do Câncer – INCA
Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil
E-mail: felipelott@hotmail.com*

ARTICLE INFO

 **Felipe Lott**
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5678-5343>

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