## Man Up Against Cancer: Prevention Tips for Men

Cancer is a word that strikes fear in the hearts of many. Yet, it's not a fate set in stone. Understanding cancer prevention strategies can be a game-changer. From lifestyle changes to preventive measures, we've got you covered.



#### **Understanding Your Cancer Risks**

Men, the first step in cancer prevention is understanding the risks. Certain factors, like genetics or environmental, can increase your likelihood of developing cancer. They can also be related to lifestyle choices such as diet and exercise. Knowing your family history is crucial to help identify if you're at a higher risk due to genetic predisposition.

#### Adopting a Healthy Diet

It's not just about weight control but also nutrient intake. **Fruits, vegetables and whole grains are essential.** They are rich in vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that can help protect against cancer. Here are some dietary recommendations:



Related: Dispelling the Myths Around Nutrition and Cancer



## Maintaining a Healthy Weight and Regular Exercise

Regular physical activity aids in weight control and has direct cancer-prevention benefits. **Aim for at least 30 minutes of exercise each day.** This can be as simple as walking, cycling or swimming. Remember, it's not about intense workouts. It's about consistent, moderate activity.



## Smoking Cessation and Alcohol Moderation

Smoking is a leading cause of many cancers. According to the American Cancer Society, **smoking is a major risk factor for cancer, causing about 20% of all cancers.** Quitting smoking significantly reduces your risk. Alcohol consumption should also be moderated. Heavy drinking is linked to various cancers.





#### Sun Protection and Skin Care

Skin cancer is a common yet preventable disease. The Skin Cancer Foundation reported that **more than half of new melanoma diagnoses are in men**. So, sun protection is crucial for everyone. Always apply sunscreen when outdoors. Wear protective clothing and hats. Avoid peak sun hours. Regular skin checks are also beneficial.

#### Regular Screening and Early Detection

Regular screening tests are vital in detecting cancer early, which increases survival rates. **Prostate, lung and colon cancers are common in men, which account for about 48% of cancers diagnosed in this population.** Discuss screening options with your doctor.

Related: Cancer Screenings: What You Need to Know



## **Vaccinations and Preventive Healthcare**

Vaccinations, such as the HPV vaccine, can prevent certain cancers. Preventive healthcare, which includes regular check-ups and vaccinations, is very important.

# **Acting on Prevention**

Taking preventive measures is key to wellness and cancer prevention. Be proactive and take charge of your health. Read more about men's health here: <u>Men's Health Month: Steps to Reduce Cancer Risks and Lead Healthier Lives.</u>