

Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology
Discussion questions for Lecture 7, 2007
Female and Male Reproductive Tract Cancers II
Discussion questions

Tannock Lancet 2002

1. Is there a difference in prostate cancer mortality between the US and UK?
2. Is there any evidence that PSA screening has reduced prostate cancer in the US?
3. Have there been any randomized trials of PSA screening versus other methods of screening?

Holmberg NEJM 2002

1. How were men identified for this trial? Is the mode of screening comparable to PSA testing?
2. Death due to prostate cancer was 6.6% lower in the men receiving prostatectomy and this difference was statistically significant. Overall mortality was 6.3% lower in men receiving prostatectomy, but this was not statistically significant. Why was this? What end point is of clinical relevance to men with prostate cancer?
2. In a separate paper (Steinbeck NEJM 2002;347:790), the authors report on morbidity and quality of life. Erectile dysfunction was 80% after prostatectomy vs 45% with watchful waiting. Incontinence was 49% after prostatectomy vs 21% with watchful waiting. Urinary obstruction was 28% following prostatectomy vs 44% with watchful waiting.

If you were a man with an elevated PSA, which form of therapy would you choose? Radical prostatectomy or watchful waiting?