

Main findings:

- We found a number of clinical factors which increased the risk of men becoming unemployed following their diagnosis of prostate cancer, including having late-stage cancer, having bowel or urinary problems or having other health problems. Other social and personal factors such as living in deprived areas or in Scotland or Northern Ireland and being divorced/separated also increased their risk of becoming unemployed.
- However, men who retired early following their diagnosis of prostate cancer did not differ much in terms of clinical symptoms, such as urinary or bowel problems, from men who stayed in employment
- We have identified risk factors for becoming unemployed in prostate cancer survivors, which can be used to help men following diagnosis.

What we already know: Work can be important for men recovering from cancer as it allows them support themselves and their families, socialise with colleagues and regain a sense of normality which can help them to 'move on'. However, we do not know if a diagnosis of prostate cancer has much effect on employment, and particularly unemployment and early retirement. This study aimed to find factors which were linked to becoming unemployed or retiring early in working age men in the UK who were recently diagnosed with prostate cancer.

What did we do: The LAPCD survey was sent to men in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and asked them what their life is like after prostate cancer. From the large group who answered the survey, we chose men of working age (60 years and younger) to see if a number of social, economic, personal and clinical factors made them more likely to either become unemployed or to retire early compared to men who stayed in employment.

What did we find: Men with late-stage cancer and those with major bowel or urinary problems were at least twice as likely to become unemployed. Men with other health problems, those from more deprived areas or who were divorced or separated and those living in Scotland or Northern Ireland were also more likely to become unemployed. Men who were older, from Northern Ireland, with late stage cancer or had caring responsibilities were more likely to retire early. Self-employed and non-white men were less likely to retire early.

How will these results be used: This study found risk factors for job loss in prostate cancer survivors which can be used to support men following diagnosis. This will allow support to be targeted to men who most need it and may help engagement with these men, their families and their employers.