At a Glance

- Quality-of-life issues for men with prostate cancer may differ depending on the stage of the disease and treatment choice.
- A comprehensive approach to quality-of-life measurement in men with prostate cancer includes general, cancer, and prostate-specific assessments.
- Quality-of-life instruments are available for use in the clinical setting or for research purposes to better elucidate patients’ struggles in living with prostate cancer and deleterious outcomes from prostate cancer.

The Concept of Quality of Life

Quality of life has been defined in many ways, but a consensus definition does not exist. Quality of life has been conceptualized as normal functioning, social usefulness, general well-being,

The negative impact of treatment on quality of life in older men with very slow-growing tumors may be greater than the impact of prostate cancer without treatment. This particularly applies to cases of older men with multiple comorbid conditions who are likely to die from other causes within 10–15 years. These reasons have thrust quality of life into the center of the treatment decision-making process.

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