Couples surviving prostate cancer face long-term challenges in their relationships as they adapt to chronic illness. Ten couples surviving prostate cancer were brought together in a focus group to discuss their experiences and concerns regarding intimacy in their relationships. During three 30-minute segments, couples described their experiences (a) as couples, (b) as individual men and women in two concurrent break-out groups, and (c) regarding current intimacy and relationship needs. Questions asked of couples focused on (a) the process of being diagnosed and treated for prostate cancer, (b) what the experience was like for them as a couple, (c) what was helpful, harmful, and surprising throughout the experience, (d) what they currently needed most as a couple, and (e) what advice they had for other couples. Findings suggested that men and women think and respond differently to intimacy and relationship challenges that occur as a result of prostate cancer, diagnosis, and treatment. Consequently, healthcare providers in any clinical setting who may interact with prostate cancer survivors must consider the relationship and intimacy needs that are unique to men, women, and couples.

**At a Glance**

✦ Chronic illness impacts quality of life and relationships, including among couples who have survived prostate cancer.

✦ Men and women in focus groups expressed different concerns, and couples agreed that tailored interventions would be helpful.

✦ Oncology nurses have communication skills and cancer knowledge to coach couples dealing with prostate cancer to express intimacy and communication needs.

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(Submitted August 2005. Accepted for publication October 30, 2005.)

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/06.CJON.503-508