

Prostate-specific antigen

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This is discussed earlier in this chapter. It is good at following the course of advanced disease; however, it is lacking in sensitivity and specificity in the diagnosis of early localised prostate cancer. Nevertheless, the finding of a PSA >10 ng/mL is suggestive of cancer and >35 ng/mL is almost diagnostic of advanced prostate cancer, in the absence of active urinary tract infection. A decrease in PSA to the normal range following hormonal ablation is a good prognostic sign. Following radical prostatectomy, the PSA level (the limit for detection for modern supersensitive assays) is <0.03 ng/mL.

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