

LOW-RISK PROSTATE CANCER MANAGEMENT DECISION GUIDE

	Active Surveillance	Radical Prostatectomy	Brachytherapy	IMRT
Potential Comparative Advantages	~40% never show clinical progression requiring active treatment	Single procedure Low risk of bowel side effects	Single procedure Minimally invasive Lower risks of short-term incontinence or impotence than surgery	Non-invasive Lower risks of short-term incontinence or impotence than surgery
Potential Comparative Disadvantages	Risk of "missed" aggressive tumors or tumor progression Monitoring and biopsies required	Surgical complications Higher rates of short-term incontinence and impotence	Risk of short-term urinary obstruction	Higher (~45) number of visits for treatment Higher risk of bowel side effects (proctitis)
May Not Be Best For	Extended life expectancy (>20 yrs) High anxiety High potential for failure to follow-up	Higher surgical risks Higher concern for sexual function and urinary continence	Large prostate History of urinary obstruction	Higher concern for normal bowel function
Relative Cost to Insurers				