



**Title** Mass Screening for Prostate Diseases

**Agency** MaHTAS, Health Technology Assessment Section, Ministry of Health Malaysia  
Level 4, Block E1, Parcel E, Presint 1,  
Federal Government Administrative Center, 62590 Putrajaya, Malaysia;  
Tel: +60 3 88 83 12 29, Fax: +60 3 88 83 12 30; htamalaysia@moh.gov.my, www.moh.gov.my

**Reference** Technology Review Report, 022/07, 2007.  
<http://medicaldev.moh.gov.my/uploads/prostate%20awareness.pdf>

## Aim

To assess the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of mass prostate screening using prostate-specific antigen.

## Further research/reviews required

Evidence is needed to show increased survival from (mass) screening for prostate cancer.

## Conclusions and results

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) is found to be an efficient screening tool to detect prostate cancer and benign prostatic hypertrophy. This has been proven in population-based randomized clinical trials, in repeated screening rounds, and when performed together with digital rectal examination. However, the issue of false-positive screening results needs to be addressed thoroughly. The World Health Organization and many studies strongly advocate health promotion. Evidence on increased survival from prostate cancer must be documented before mass screening can be advocated. The true value of PSA screening can be judged only when the effects of screening on both mortality and quality of life are available. Evidence is insufficient to support the effectiveness or cost effectiveness of a campaign for mass prostate screening using PSA.

## Recommendations

Mass screening for prostate cancer is not recommended. However, health promotion regarding awareness of prostate cancer is advocated.

## Methods

The literature search included the following electronic databases: PubMed, Ovid, ProQuest, and general databases. The search strategy used the following terms, either alone or in various combinations: "prostate awareness programme", ("prostat\* cancer" OR "prostat\* carcinoma" OR "prostate tumor" OR "prostate neoplasm") AND "screening", "prostate screening" AND "uroflow", "Prostate-specific antigen", "Prostatic Neoplasms", "Prostatic Hyperplasia" and "Mass Screening". The searches applied various limitations in different combinations.