

## CHAPTER 20

# A Shared Decision-Making Approach to Assessing Prostate Cancer Risk

## A Gay Diary Case Study

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### CHAPTER SUMMARY

In the United States, prostate cancer screening and diagnosis are advancing a shared decision-making approach whereby the patient and physician, and possibly other key persons such as a spouse, jointly investigate, test, diagnose, and develop a treatment plan tailored to the individual's specific needs. This first-person account uses a single-case, prospective-diary methodology to record the process from PSA testing to biopsy for a gay-identified man experiencing shared decision making in the age of the electronic medical record. The chapter documents the questions, reactions, and decisions that are foremost in the patient's mind as they occur. In addition, the involvement of the patient's husband in the process and the specialist's perspectives are summarized. The key finding is that shared decision making has several strengths, including facilitating patient buy-in and physician-patient communication. Identified weaknesses include the patient's taking at least partial blame when a medical procedure is performed incorrectly, as well as the process progressing at a speed determined in part by the patient. In the age of electronically delivered results, many of the key results and decisions were delivered remotely, facilitated by e-mail communication between patient and physician.

### KEY TERMS

case study, gay and bisexual men, prostate cancer, shared decision making, treatment

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