

CHAPTER 16

“Losing My Chestnut”

One Gay Man’s Wrangle with Prostate Cancer — Ten Years On

Gary W. Dowsett

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter documents my personal encounter with a prostate cancer diagnosis and initial treatment ten years ago. Such personal accounts can offer insight into health issues and concerns otherwise unrecognized in healthcare, along with the particular kinds of science and research that underpin them. Such accounts have been used extensively in health research and politics, particularly when affected communities have a stake and a need to right some wrong. I wrote this article with that aim in mind. It was written in 2008 at the request of the editor of the journal *Reproductive Health Matters*, Marge Berer, to contribute to a set of testimonials on cancer experiences for an issue of the journal focused on reproductive cancers.¹ For this version, I have updated aspects to reflect changes in the prostate cancer field and added a short afterword, “Ten Years On.”

KEY TERMS

cancer treatment, gay men, prostate cancer, sexual dysfunction, sexuality

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1. Dowsett GW. "Losing my chestnut": One gay man's wrangle with prostate cancer. *Reproductive Health Matters*. 2008; 16 (32): 145–150.
2. Perlman G, Drescher J, eds. *A gay man's guide to prostate cancer*. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Medical Press; 2005.