

CHAPTER 3

Integrating Post-Prostatectomy Sexuality

The Couple's Journey

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CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter addresses the sexual recovery of gay and bisexual men (GBM) with prostate cancer and their partners after surgery for prostate cancer. While the sexual function of the man with prostate cancer is primarily affected, the partner is also affected emotionally, and the couple's sexual experience is changed. Both members of the couple will probably experience grief about sexual losses. In the process of recovery, they will have to learn to communicate more explicitly about their sexual needs and may need to employ novel strategies to stay connected and maintain a satisfying level of eroticism. Currently, little support is available for GBM couples. Knowledge development is needed to ensure that GBM couples' sexual recovery proceeds toward maximizing their sexual health after prostate cancer treatment.

KEY TERMS

couples, prostate cancer, prostatectomy, sexuality, sexual recovery

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