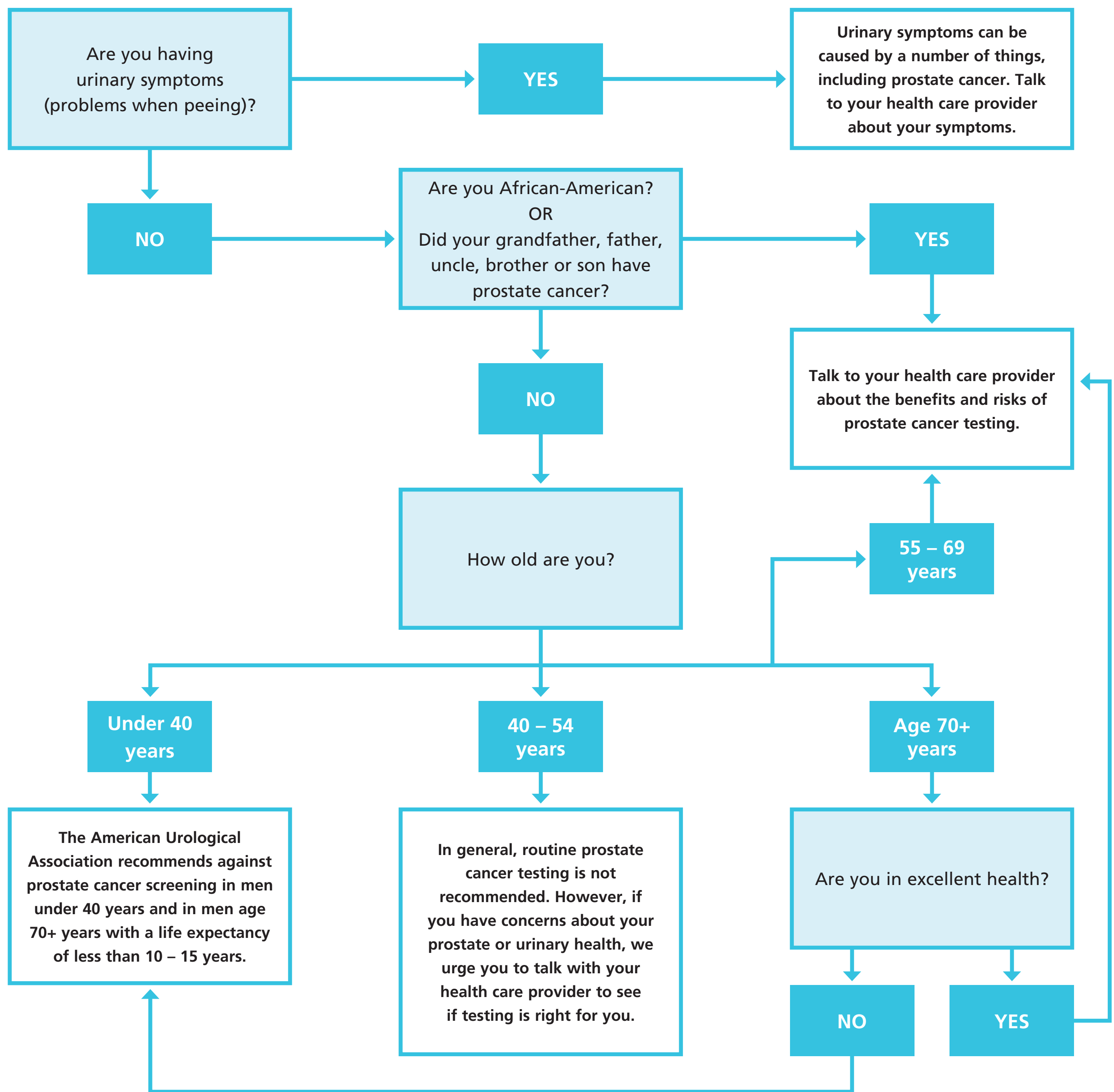


Should You Be Screened for Prostate Cancer?



WHO IS AT RISK OF DEVELOPING PROSTATE CANCER?

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men, and the second leading cause of cancer death in men. One in nine men will be diagnosed in his lifetime. African-American men and men with a family history of prostate cancer have a higher chance of getting the disease.

Prostate cancer is different from many cancers because it often grows very slowly and may not cause problems. In 2018, only about 29,400 American men will die from prostate cancer, compared to nearly 165,000 men diagnosed with the disease. Many men with prostate cancer will never know they have it unless they get tested.

SHOULD I GET SCREENED FOR PROSTATE CANCER?

THERE ARE POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO HAVING A PSA TEST.

- A normal PSA test may put your mind at ease.
- A PSA test may find prostate cancer early before it has spread.
- Early treatment of prostate cancer may help some men to avoid problems from cancer.
- Early treatment of prostate cancer may help some men live longer.

THERE ARE POSSIBLE RISKS OF HAVING A PSA TEST.

- A normal PSA test may miss some prostate cancers (a "false negative").
- Sometimes the test results suggest something is wrong when it isn't (a "false positive"). This can cause unneeded worry and stress.
- A "false positive" PSA test may lead to an unneeded prostate biopsy (tissue sample).
- A high PSA test may find a prostate cancer that is slow-growing and never would have caused you problems.
- Treatment of prostate cancer may cause you harm. Problems with getting erections, leaking urine or bowel function can occur.
- According to the American Urological Association, in asymptomatic men, the greatest benefit of routine screening can be found in men ages 55 to 69 years. Men younger than 55 or older than 69 who are worried about their personal risk factors should talk with their health care provider to determine whether prostate cancer screening is appropriate.



American Urological Association

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