

'WORSE THAN THE DISEASE' One in four men battling penis cancer 'aren't getting the right, life-saving treatment – amputation'

In many cases the failure is down to blokes refusing the op, but experts warn the surgery could save lives

By Shaun Woolter

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ONE in four blokes with penis cancer does not get the recommended treatment – amputating all or part of their manhood.

In many cases the failure is down to blokes refusing the op, but experts warned it could halve their chance of survival.



One in four blokes with penis cancer aren't getting the right treatment, doctors have warned

But, they also noted it's because the condition is so rare.

Just 640 Brit blokes are affected every year, meaning many medics lack the skills to treat it.

Doctors describe the cancer as a "frightening prospect" and add: "For many men, the cure seems worse than the disease."

The number of fellas being diagnosed with penis cancer in England rocketed 915 per cent between 1979 and 2011.



In many cases blokes are refusing the surgery - to partially or completely amputate the penis

Most cases are identified when they visit their GP with a rash.

The surge has been blamed on men having casual sex with more partners, because it spreads the cancer-causing [human papilloma virus \(HPV\)](#).

Researchers, from 12 cities worldwide, analysed data on 425 penis cancer patients treated between 2010 and 2016.

CANCER OF THE WHAT? From sores and ulcers to a rash... 11 signs you could be suffering penis cancer

On the occasions when patients were not treated according to guidelines, half was due to the doctor deciding not to operate and one in six was due to the patient or their carer.

Study leader Dr Luca Cindolo, from the local health authority of L'Aquila, Italy, said: "We found that most patients were treated in accordance with the gold-standard recommendations."

From our work, we see that around twice as many patients survive if they have been treated according to recommended guidelines."

What are the warning signs you might have penis cancer?

Penile cancer symptoms may include:

- A growth or sore on the penis that doesn't heal within 4 weeks – it can look like a wart, ulcer or blister and is not always painful
- Bleeding from the penis or from under the foreskin
- A foul smelling discharge
- Difficulty in drawing back the foreskin (phimosis)
- A rash on the penis

- A change in the colour of the penis or foreskin

Symptoms of advanced penile cancer include:

- A lump (swollen lymph node) in the groin
- Feeling tired
- Abdominal pain
- Pain in the bones
- Weight loss



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