New Test Can Better Detect Recurrence of Prostate Cancer

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers launches use of Axumin®

Green Bay – The American Cancer Society reports approximately 1 in 9 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime; and out of those diagnosed and treated, about one-third will experience a recurrence of prostate cancer.

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers is now utilizing a new, state-of-the-art testing technique that helps doctors detect a recurrence of prostate cancer and save lives, better than ever before. The testing is done with an FDA-approved imaging agent called Axumin, in combination with positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT).

Prior to the PET/CT, Axumin is administered to the patient through an IV. Axumin contains a synthetic amino acid that is absorbed by prostate cancer in the body at a much more rapid pace than normal cells. It also contains a radioactive element which allows for Axumin to be seen inside the patient’s body during a PET/CT. Therefore, if there is a recurrence or metastasis of cancer in the body, the physician will be able to identify the location and extent of the cancer based on where the Axumin fluid collects in greater amounts in the body.

“For men who are experiencing a recurrence of prostate cancer, about one-third of them will have prostate cancer that has metastasized, or spread to other areas of their body,” said Dr. Daniel DeGroot, urologist at Prevea Health. “This test can help us pinpoint the extent and location(s) of the cancer and better guide us on the best course of treatment for the patient.”

A patient that is suspected of having a recurrence of prostate cancer due to elevated prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels in their blood would be referred for a PET/CT with Axumin by their oncologist. For more information about Axumin and HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers, click here.

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About HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers includes the largest group of oncologists in Northeast Wisconsin and provides patients access to state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment technologies, as well as multiple supportive therapies at five locations throughout Northeast Wisconsin. It has been accredited by the Commission on Cancer for more than 55 years and is recognized as an Integrated Network Cancer Program – the highest level of accreditation possible for a non-teaching hospital. With decades of experience and a passion to provide patients the best care possible, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers works directly with the National Cancer Institute to bring people in the Northeast Wisconsin region access to the newest, leading-edge cancer clinical trials, drugs and prevention studies. For more information, visit www.stvincethospital.org/cancer.
About Hospital Sisters Health System
Hospital Sisters Health System’s (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ’s healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O’Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries. For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org. For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit www.hospitalsisters.org.