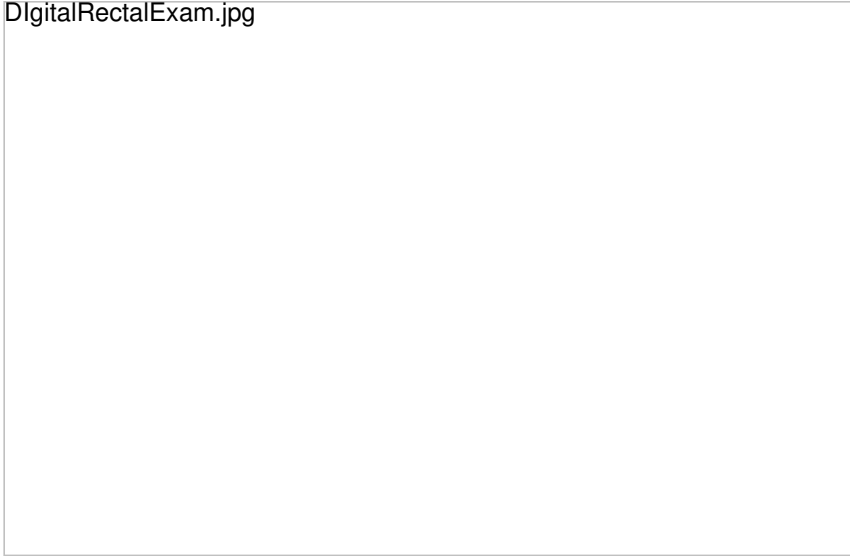


Digital Rectal Exam

Printed from <https://www.cancerquest.org/patients/detection-and-diagnosis/digital-rectal-exam-dre> on 12/22/2024

DigitalRectalExam.jpg



Digital rectal exams (DRE) can be useful for the detection of abnormalities, including cancer, in the rectum. During the exam, the physician inserts a gloved, lubricated finger in the rectum and feels for abnormalities. In men, digital rectal exams are also used to detect changes in prostate that could indicate an abnormal condition, including cancer. The procedure is very quick and although it may be uncomfortable, it is usually not painful for the patient.^{1 2}

For more information about [prostate cancer](#) visit the [Winship Cancer Institute](#) of Emory University.

- ¹Abbas A, Yang G, Fakhri M. (2010) Management of anal cancer in 2010. Part 1: Overview, screening, and diagnosis. *Oncology (Williston Park)*. 2010 Apr 15;24(4):364-9. [[PUBMED](#)]
- ²Jones MJ and Koehnman KS. (2008) Local-regional prostate cancer. *Urol Oncol*. Sep-Oct;26(5):516-21. [[PUBMED](#)]