

BRIAN

HELFAND:

We established the first genetic prostate cancer clinic as part of our personalized program for prostate cancer care here at NorthShore University HealthSystem. This means that we were one of the first to incorporate genetic, as well as genomic testing, into our clinics to help guide patient decision making.

At that time, many of them were-- the tests offered were considered experimental, but now these are considered guidelines and incorporated into many of the NCCN recommendations for patients. The reason why we offer these now is because we have definitely found and have evidence that they impact patient care and clinical decision making. Again, this goes from the start of screening to the time of advanced prostate cancer care.

Our team that is incorporated into the clinic includes urologists, such as myself, but also includes genetic counselors, and medical geneticists, our nurse navigator, who can help discuss and find the tests that would be right for patients.

To date we have offered over 800 men genetic testing throughout our clinics. Among those we have identified 8% of those that have mutations in genes that are associated with prostate cancer risk and aggressiveness. Among those we also have another 50% that were considered high risk just based on their genetic risk score. As such these men have benefited from earlier testing, and these findings have helped guide their prostate cancer care throughout all stages of their treatment.