

My Prostate Cancer Journey: Month 148 and PSA Results

Do the androgen deprivation therapy effects of prostate cancer treatment wear off faster than the salvage radiation effects kick in?

March 30, 2023 By [Dan Zeller](#)

I went for my next PSA test this week, and I truly didn't know what to expect going into it. My PSA (prostate-specific antigen) jumped from 0.05 ng/mL on 1 November 2022 to 0.13 ng/mL on 7 March 2023. I'm concerned but not freaked out.

PSA test results
Courtesy of Daniel Zeller

My best guess is that the androgen deprivation therapy effects are wearing off faster than the salvage radiation effects are kicking in. (At least that's my hope, but what do I know?)

It's been ten months since I received the six-month dose of Eligard on 3 May 2022, so it makes

sense that it would be less impactful on my PSA over time and that my PSA would creep up again. I'm a bit surprised by how big of a jump it was, though.

Of course, I'll talk to both the urologist and radiation oncologist about this, but that won't be until May as things stand right now. (I did email the results to the radiation oncologist, and he replied, "I would not read too much into a single PSA value.")

Our follow-up testing and appointment scheduling between the VA urologist and the UCSD radiation oncologist is getting a bit out of whack, and I need to try to rein that in. It's difficult to do the four-month follow-ups suggested by the doctor when appointment availability is six to eight months out. (I'll spare you the details.)

My appointment with the VA is on 30 May, and I don't have a firm date for the UCSD six month follow-up yet, but that should be in May as well.

In other news, my bowels seem to be calming down, with me returning to bowel movements once or twice a day. The intestinal gas still happens, but that comes and goes, too. Urinary frequency is pretty much back to where it was before the radiation, and I can usually make it through the night now with zero to one trip to the toilet.

Be well!

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