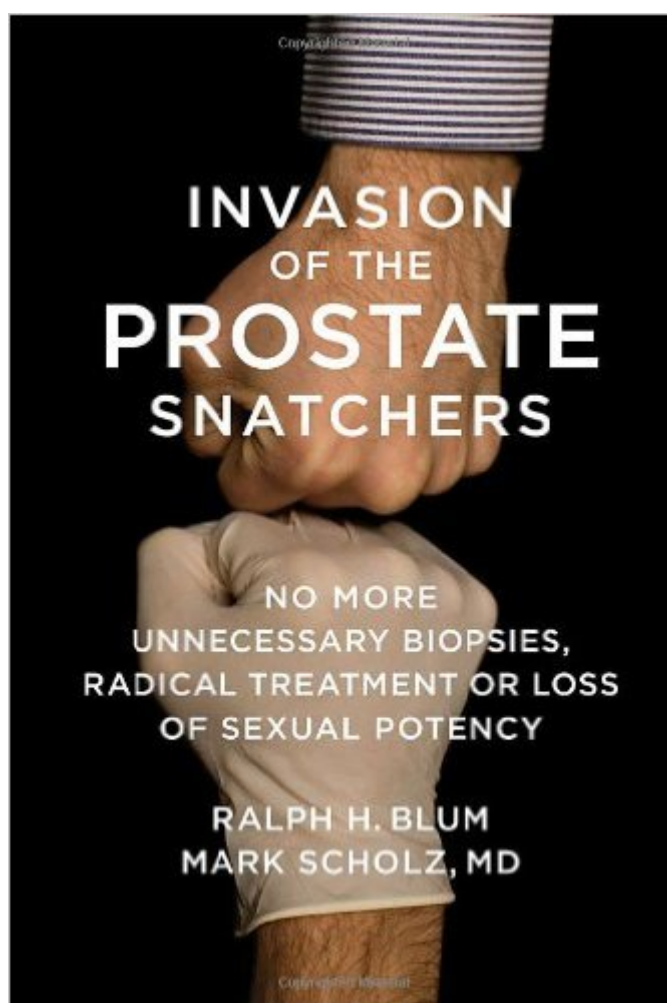


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Invasion Of The Prostate Snatchers: No More Unnecessary Biopsies, Radical Treatment Or Loss Of Sexual Potency



Synopsis

Every year almost a quarter of a million confused and frightened American men are tossed into a prostate cancer cauldron stirred by salespeople representing a multibillion-dollar industry. In this flourishing business, the radical prostatectomy is still the most widely recommended treatment option. Yet a recent and definitive study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* concluded that out of the fifty thousand prostate operations performed annually, more than forty thousand are unjustified. But this is no surprise given that 99 percent of all doctors treating this disease are surgeons or radiation therapists. The appalling fact is that men are still being rushed into a major operation that rarely prolongs life and more than half the time leaves them impotent. *Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers* is a report on the latest thinking in prostate cancer therapy: close monitoring—“active surveillance rather than surgery or radiation”—should be the initial treatment approach for many men. There are three stages of prostate cancer and this book will provide accurate information about how to distinguish between them: Low-Risk, which requires no immediate treatment; Intermediate-Risk, which will benefit from surgery, radiation, and/or hormonal therapy; and High-Risk, a type that does require immediate treatment with a combination of therapies. In a unique collaboration, doctor and patient provide a wholly new perspective on managing this disease. Ralph Blum’s account of his personal struggle, together with Dr. Mark Scholz’s presentation of new scientific advances, provides convincing evidence that this noninvasive approach can be crucial in preventing tens of thousands of men from being overtreated every year. *Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers* serves as an indispensable map through the medical minefield of prostate cancer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'll make my "full disclosure" at the end of this review, but for now, I'll just say that I did the best I could to read and review this book on its own merits rather than my own thoughts and opinions. The title, "Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers," tells you at once where this book is coming from. Written in a very effective manner, alternating chapters between a patient and a doctor, the book's major thesis is that surgery or other radical intervention for prostate cancer is done, too often, too soon, and too indiscriminately. The patient, Ralph Blum, has had low-risk prostate cancer for something like two decades and has been, as he says, a "Refusenik" when it comes to radical treatment. He did some hormone blockade therapy, and tried various forms of diet, natural remedies, etc. He is now age 75 and doing well, living with the cancer. The doctor, Mark Scholz, is one of a rare breed of oncologist specialized in prostate cancer; as the book so clearly states, prostate cancer is usually the province of a urologist, who is also a surgeon, and hence pushes for immediate surgical intervention. Certainly, the book's thesis has a lot of support in the modern medical community, some of whom even go so far as to say that even PSA tests (a simple blood test, and the most common screen for potential prostate cancer) are overdone, leading to too many biopsies which in turn lead to too much radical intervention. The book talks in great detail about the side effects of radical intervention (surgery or radiation); about grades of prostate cancer; about options both usual and unusual; about hormone therapy; about diet and supplements; and much, much more.

Since this reader is of the age where prostate problems can arise, Scholz and Blum's "Invasion" is something that I wanted to read about so that I would be better equipped if and when something might happen to my own. Not only is this book a valuable resource for those going through prostate issues, it could almost be described as "Required Reading" by any male over the age of 30. Men usually don't want to think about any problems with their equipment, much less spend any time reading a book that deals with the subject in-depth. But Blum's personal history with non-aggressive prostate cancer reveals not only the mental toll such a condition can take, but the various directions and decisions that a man can make regarding his own health. Most helpful of all, however, is the important lesson we all must learn about health issues: Take control of your health decisions and make them with the help of a caring, non-controlling, informed doctor. It's your body, not theirs, and YOU have to live with whatever is decided by BOTH of you, they don't. Blum is among the lucky few

who have an open-minded doctor at his side and this book reveals how thousands (millions?) of men leave the difficult decision of removing their prostate (and other ill-informed surgeries) to wrong-headed urologists when actually leaving it intact may turn out to be the best decision possible. Scholz and Blum show how the business of Urologists is surgery and the business of Radiologists is radiation therapy. Therefore, consult a surgeon, and voila, the best decision according to them is... you guessed it, surgery! Doctors are often WRONG and this book points that fact out again and again. The book also reveals how doctors are often self-consumed, ego-maniacs who think they are infallible.

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