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University Hospital News: Press Releases

1989-10

University Hospital News: October 1989

no. 1

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/20266>

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1839 1989

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NEWS

For Immediate Release
October 1989Contact: Sarah Downey
(617) 638-8491BUSM RESEARCHERS OBSERVE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN VASECTOMIES AND PROSTATE CANCER

Boston, Mass.--Researchers at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) have observed a statistical association between men who have undergone vasectomies and the risk of prostate cancer--a finding made during the course of multiple comparisons in a large data base. Lynn Rosenberg, Sc.D., a professor of public health at BUSM, compared 226 men with prostate cancer with two control groups. The estimated risk of prostate cancer was three times greater in men with vasectomies, according to Rosenberg.

Rosenberg says these findings are no cause for alarm because they are preliminary and further research is needed to determine if the association is causal. She adds that possible explanations for the association found include chance, bias and distorting factors.