

# New therapy for prostate cancer

A gel making it possible to avoid surgery used in Tuscany for the first time

[zoom](#)



**CARRARA.** An innovative operation, only the second case in Italy (first in Tuscany), and new hope for all those suffering from prostate cancer. In short, despite all the discussion regarding budgets, the Apuan healthcare system continues to make advances thanks to the professionalism of its continually updated staff. Just recently, at Carrara civic hospital, the radiology surgery team, led by Dr. Tito Torri and assisted by international coworkers, have placed a new device known as "space OAR" which stands for "space for organs at risk" in a patient affected by prostate cancer. As already mentioned, the procedure is the first in Tuscany and the second in Italy. The material used is polyethylene glycol gel, which has been introduced by percutaneous injection through the perineal skin, into the space between the rectum and the prostate, following local anesthesia. What is the advantage of this procedure? The key aspect is that this substance makes it possible to introduce a space of about one centimeter between the prostate and the rectum, just enough to plan radiotherapy treatment allowing radiotherapy doses that are curative for prostate carcinoma, operating in safety since it avoids exposure to ionizing radiation for 80% of the rectal mucosa. Plus, another significant aspect is that the patient will not be subjected to surgery, but will only undergo outpatient radiotherapy treatment using a linear accelerator, with the aim of curing the cancer. The "gel" remains in the body for approx. 4 months, the time necessary to plan and complete the radiotherapy; and will then be completely reabsorbed. There is no need even for hospitalization for this type of treatment: it is an outpatient procedure, and is performed with the aid of ultrasound (see photo above) allowing correct positioning of the needle prior to injection. Resonance imaging can be used to view the gel once in place and then proceed with the treatment.