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# Prostate surgery regrets

■ Cathy O'Leary

More than one in six men with prostate cancer who have surgery regret choosing that treatment, research shows.

An Australian study shows prostate cancer patients are four times more likely to regret having surgery than they are radiation treatment, despite the perception of fewer side effects associated with surgery.

The results, released today at a Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists scientific meeting on the Gold Coast, suggest men need to be better informed of their options.

Some experts believe that radiation therapy, despite being more cost-effective, is under-used in prostate cancer treatment.

Men who have radiation, which targets cancer cells using high-energy focused X-ray beams, have the same cure rate and quality of life as men who have surgery.

Researchers found that 4 per cent of patients regretted having radiation therapy compared with 17 per cent who regretted having radical surgery.