

(Continued)

to relieve the symptoms of BPH. "These drugs can relieve the symptoms in many men over the short-term.

But we don't know if they only postpone, or can actually prevent, the need for surgery or other treatment down the road," says John McConnell, M.D., a urologist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and chairman of the study.

BPH is an expensive disease. About 7.5 million men have BPH, with about 250,000 men needing prostate surgery each year. All forms of treatment for BPH cost an estimated \$5 billion each year, and as the U.S. population ages, these costs will increase.

"By the year 2000, the number of men over 50 will have increased by 25 percent, and we estimate that about 9 million men will have symptoms of BPH," says Steven Kaplan, M.D., a trial physician at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in the New York City.

Men can call toll-free 1-800-BPH-1221 to locate the nearest participating medical center.

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