

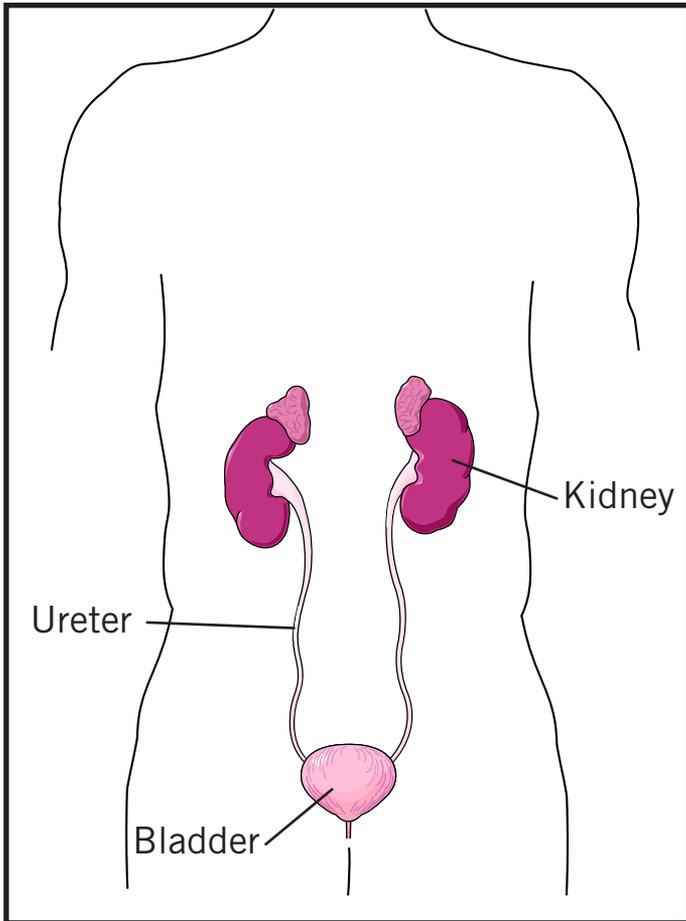
2014

# Bladder Cancer



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Bladder cancer is a common cancer of the urinary tract. This pamphlet answers some commonly asked questions about bladder cancer. It explains how it is diagnosed and treated.



## **What is the bladder and where is it located in the body?**

The bladder is a muscular sac that stores urine (pee). In females, it is found behind the pubic bone and in front of the vagina and uterus. In males, the bladder sits behind the pubic bone and in front of the bowel.

## **Who is at higher risk for getting bladder cancer?**

- 3 out of 4 people with bladder cancer are men. Most of these men are between the ages of 45 and 80.
- Smoking may cause bladder cancer.
- Exposure to certain dyes and chemical in the workplace may also increase the risk of bladder cancer.

## **What are the signs and symptoms of bladder cancer?**

- Usually the first and only sign of bladder cancer is blood in the urine. It is usually painless.
- Other symptoms may be:
  - › Frequent need to urinate
  - › Strong urge to urinate
  - › Discomfort (pain) or burning when you urinate
- If these symptoms last for more than 1 week, see your doctor.

## **How is bladder cancer diagnosed?**

- A cystoscope (thin tube, like a slender telescope with a lens and light system) is passed through the urethra into the bladder. If any area or growth looks suspicious, the doctor can take a biopsy (tissue sample). Bladder cancer is diagnosed from the biopsy taken during this test, called a cystoscopy.
- The urologist may recommend several other tests.
- Special X-rays and urine tests may be done to get more information.

## **How is bladder cancer treated?**

Bladder cancer may be treated with surgery, radiation therapy, and/or chemotherapy. The kind of treatment your doctor recommends depends on your age, general health, and the stage of the disease.

**If you need to see a doctor, please contact your family doctor or go to the nearest Emergency Department unless otherwise instructed by your Urologist.**

If you have any questions, please ask.  
We are here to help you.



**Looking for more health information?**

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years.