



UNDERSTANDING BLADDER CANCER

Hematuria (blood in the urine) is the most common symptom of bladder cancer. It is generally painless. Blood may be visible, but in most cases it can only be seen under a microscope. Although we do not know all the causes of bladder cancer, there are certain known risk factors that can increase the chance of cancer.

- Smoking cigarettes, cigars, and pipe smoking increases your risk of bladder cancer. Half of all the bladder cancer cases in the United States are caused by cigarette smoke. The chemicals that you inhale from tobacco move from your lungs into your blood. Your kidneys filter the chemicals out of your blood and send them to your bladder. These chemicals, over time can damage the cells that line the inside of your bladder, which increases the chance of cancer developing.
- Exposure to chemicals used to make plastics, paints, textile, leather and rubber may also cause bladder cancer.
- Frequent or long lasting bladder infections.

If you have symptoms of bladder cancer, your doctor may perform one or more of the following tests:

- **Urinalysis** to check the color and contents of urine.
 - **Urine Cytology** is viewed under a microscope to look for cancer cells.
 - **A CT Scan (computerized tomography scan)** may be performed to better view the kidneys, ureters, and bladder.
 - **Cystoscopy** allows your doctor to inspect the inner surfaces of your bladder for signs of cancer. This test is performed in your doctor's office.
 - **A bladder biopsy** might need to be performed to remove any suspicious looking tissue. This tissue will be sent to a laboratory for further examination.
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