## THE PRO-ACTIVE BLADDER CANCER PATIENT TOOLKIT



Find Your Voice Resource Guide

Bladder Cancer Subtypes		Bladder Cancer Treatments	
-	Transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) or urothelial carcinoma (most common type of bladder cancer)	:	Antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) Chemotherapy
•	Squamous cell carcinoma	•	Immunotherapy
•	Adenocarcinoma	-	Targeted therapy
•	Small cell bladder cancer	-	Surgery
-	Sarcomatoid carcinoma		Clinical trials

## **Stages of Bladder Cancer**

- Stage I: The cancer is growing in the inner lining layer of the bladder *only*.
- Stage II: The cancer is growing into the inner or outer *muscle layer* of the bladder wall.
- **Stage III:** The cancer has grown **beyond** the muscle layer and into fatty tissue that surrounds the bladder.
- Stage IV: The cancer is growing outside of the pelvic region and has spread to distant sites, such as
  the lung, liver, or bones. When cancer has spread to other organs in the body, it is considered
  metastatic cancer.

## **Glossary Terms**

**Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG):** Intravesical immunotherapy commonly used for treating early-stage bladder cancer. BCG is used to inhibit the cancer's growth and prevent recurrence.

**Biomarker Testing (molecular testing):** Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

**Cystectomy:** Surgery to remove the bladder.

**Cystoscopy:** Using a hollow tube (cystoscope) inserted into the urethra to examine the lining of the bladder.

**Immunotherapy:** Type of therapy that harnesses one's own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

**Progression-free survival (PFS):** The length of time during and after the treatment of cancer that a patient lives with the disease, but it does not worsen.

**Stoma**: A surgical opening from the inside the body to the outside.

**Targeted Therapy:** A type of personalized medicine that works by blocking specific mutations and by preventing cancer cells from growing and dividing, without affecting normal cells.

**Urostomy**: A surgery where the bladder is removed and replaced with a stoma outside of the body.

## **Bladder Cancer Resources**

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network: bcan.org
Clinicaltrials.gov
Office Visit Planners



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Patient Toolkit is brought to you by
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