

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN BLADDER CANCER TREATMENT AND CARE DECISIONS



Program Resource Guide

Questions to Ask After a Bladder Cancer Diagnosis

- Have I undergone all necessary testing for an accurate diagnosis?
- Has the cancer been assessed by an expert GU pathologist?
- What does my diagnosis mean?
- What do the stage and grade mean for me?
- Is the diagnosis life-threatening?
- What is the treatment timeline?

Bladder Cancer Grades

Low-grade bladder cancer: The cancer cells look more like normal cells and tend to grow slowly. These tumors are less likely to spread deeper into the bladder or to other parts of the body.

High-grade bladder cancer: The cancer cells look very different from normal cells and tend to grow more quickly. These tumors are more likely to spread deeper into the bladder and to other areas of the body.

Bladder Cancer Risk Groups

Low-Risk Bladder Cancer: A small, early-stage bladder cancer that is low grade (slow-growing) and limited to one tumor.

Intermediate-Risk Bladder Cancer: Cancer that may include more than one tumor, or tumors that are slightly more aggressive or have grown deeper into the bladder lining.

High-Risk Bladder Cancer: Cancer that is more aggressive, includes multiple tumors, has grown deeper into the bladder lining, or is linked with a flat, high-risk type of cancer called CIS (carcinoma in situ).

Common Bladder Cancer Treatments

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

Enfortumab vedotin-ejfv (Padcev): Targeted antibody drug conjugate (ADC) used to treat locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (bladder cancer) commonly used in combination with pembrolizumab.

Enfortumab vedotin-ejfv (Padcev) + Pembrolizumab (Keytruda): FDA-approved combination therapy shown to be highly effective as first-line standard of care for locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (bladder cancer).

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

Pembrolizumab (Keytruda): An immunotherapy drug FDA-approved for high-risk non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) and locally advanced/metastatic urothelial carcinoma.

TURBT (Transurethral Resection of a Bladder Tumor): Common surgical procedure used to diagnose, stage, and treat bladder cancer by removing abnormal growths or tumors from inside the bladder.

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Questions to Ask About a Bladder Cancer Treatment Plan

- What is the treatment schedule?
- What are the goals of treatment?
- Will this cure my bladder cancer?
- Will the therapy bring long-term or periodic remission?
- What are the possible side effects?

Glossary Terms

AI Hallucination (artificial hallucination): A convincing response generated by artificial intelligence (AI) that contains false or misleading information represented as fact.

Biopsy: Removal of tissue from a specific area of the body for further examination.

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

Shared Decision-Making (SDM): Process of communication by which patients and clinicians collaborate to make healthcare decisions. The process encourages patients to take a more active role in their care and treatment.

Bladder Cancer Educational Resources

International Bladder Cancer Group: ibcg.info

World Bladder Cancer Patient Coalition:
worldbladdercancer.org

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network: BCAN.org



[Elevate Bladder Cancer](#) is brought to you by the Patient Empowerment Network. It is sponsored by Astellas Pharma Inc. and Pfizer Oncology, and through generous donations from people like you.