

## Bladder Cancer

Bladder cancer usually involves only the inside lining of the bladder. Men are at higher risk of bladder cancer than are women. Often, the first sign of bladder cancer is blood in the urine, or hematuria. Bladder cancer is diagnosed by inspecting the bladder lining with a special instrument called a cystoscope inserted through the natural urinary opening.

Bladder cancer is usually treated in outpatient surgery. After removal, special medication may be put in the bladder once per week to treat abnormal cells. When discovered early and monitored carefully, bladder cancer can be successfully treated. Unfortunately, bladder cancer has a high rate of recurrence so regular bladder checks may be necessary.

If the tumors extend beyond the bladder lining and into the muscle layer, a more extensive surgery may be recommended.

Tobacco use and exposure to certain industrial chemicals are risk factors for bladder cancer. To estimate your risk of getting bladder cancer, you might be interested in viewing the on-line questionnaire provided by the Harvard School of Public Health: <http://www.yourdiseaserisk.harvard.edu/hccpquiz.pl?lang=english&func=home&quiz=bladder>