

About Bladder Cancer

More than 9 of 10 Americans with bladder cancer have a type called transitional cell cancer (TCC).

TCC begins in the cells on the surface of the inner lining of the bladder. These cells are called transitional cells. They are able to stretch when the bladder is full and shrink when it's emptied.

Estimated new cases and deaths from bladder cancer in the United States in 2017

New cases: 79,030

Deaths: 16,870

Bladder cancer represents 2.8% of all cancer deaths in the U.S.

Risk factors:

- *Smoking*: Smoking tobacco is the most important risk factor for bladder cancer. Smoking causes most of the cases of bladder cancer. People who smoke for many years have a higher risk than nonsmokers or those who smoke for a short time.
- *Chemicals in the workplace*: Some people have a higher risk of bladder cancer because of cancer-causing chemicals in their workplace. Workers in the dye, rubber, chemical, metal, textile, and leather industries may be at risk of bladder cancer. Also at risk are hairdressers, machinists, printers, painters, and truck drivers.
- *Personal history of bladder cancer*: People who have had bladder cancer have an increased risk of getting the disease again.
- *Certain cancer treatments*: People with cancer who have been treated with certain drugs (such as cyclophosphamide) may be at increased risk of bladder cancer. Also, people who have had radiation therapy to the abdomen or pelvis may be at increased risk.
- *Arsenic*: Arsenic is a poison that increases the risk of bladder cancer. In some areas of the world, arsenic may be found at high levels in drinking water. However, the United States has safety measures limiting the arsenic level in public drinking water.
- *Family history of bladder cancer*: People with family members who have bladder cancer have a slightly increased risk of the disease.

Symptoms:

- Blood in the urine (making the urine slightly rusty to deep red)
- Pain during urination
- Frequent urination, or feeling the need to urinate without results

Treatment:

Treatment options for people with bladder cancer are surgery, chemotherapy, biological therapy, and radiation therapy. You may receive more than one type of treatment.

The treatment that's right for you depends mainly on the following:

- The location of the tumor in the bladder
- Whether the tumor has invaded the muscle layer or tissues outside the bladder
- Whether the tumor has spread to other parts of the body
The grade of the tumor
- Your age and general health