

About Kidney (Renal Cell) Cancer

Kidney cancer forms in tissues of the kidneys. Kidney cancer includes renal cell carcinoma (cancer that forms in the lining of very small tubes in the kidney that filter the blood and remove waste products) and renal pelvis carcinoma (cancer that forms in the center of the kidney where urine collects). It also includes Wilms tumor, which is a type of kidney cancer that usually develops in children under the age of 5.

Estimated new cases and deaths from kidney (renal cell and renal pelvis) cancer in the United States in 2017

New cases: 63,900

Deaths: 14,440

Kidney cancer represents 2.4 % of all cancer deaths in the U.S.

Risk factors:

- **Smoking:** Smoking tobacco is an important risk factor for kidney cancer. People who smoke have a higher risk than nonsmokers. The risk is higher for those who smoke more cigarettes or for a long time.
- **Obesity**
- **High blood pressure**
- **Family history of kidney cancer:** People with a family member who had kidney cancer have a slightly increased risk of the disease. Also, certain conditions that run in families can increase the risk of kidney cancer.

Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) syndrome: VHL is a rare disease that runs in some families caused by changes in the VHL gene. An abnormal VHL gene increases the risk of kidney cancer.

Many people who get kidney cancer have none of these risk factors, and many people who have known risk factors don't develop the disease.

Treatment:

Common treatment options for people with kidney cancer are surgery, targeted therapy, and biological therapy. You may receive more than one type of treatment.

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

- The size of the tumor
- Whether the tumor has invaded tissues outside the kidney
- Whether the tumor has spread to other parts of the body
- Your age and general health

Symptoms:

- Blood in the urine (making the urine slightly rusty to deep red)
- Pain in the side that does not go away
- A lump or mass in the side or the abdomen
- Weight loss for no known reason
- Fever
- Feeling very tired

Remember, early detection saves lives.