Urothelial Bladder Cancer

What is Urothelial Bladder Cancer?
Urothelial bladder cancer is a cancer that occurs in the bladder. Most bladder cancers start in the innermost lining of the bladder, where cells can grow uncontrollably.³

Key Risk Factors⁴⁻⁶
• Smoking
• Workplace exposure to industrial chemicals, such as aromatic amines
• Older age (>55 years)
• Male gender
• Personal or family history of bladder cancer
• Early menopause (before the age of 45)
• Chemotherapy or radiation
• Chronic bladder infection and irritation

Diagnosis and Prognosis
Urothelial bladder cancer can often be found early because it causes blood in the urine or other urinary symptoms. However, the prognosis remains poor for metastatic urothelial bladder cancer.⁷

In the US, the percentage of cases diagnosed by stage and their relative 5-year survival rates are:⁷

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>In Situ</th>
<th>Localized</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>Distant</th>
<th>Distant</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases by Stage</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative 5-Year Survival Rate</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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Incidence
Based on recent estimates, urothelial bladder cancer is the 7th most common cancer in men worldwide and the 17th most common cancer worldwide in women.⁸ Each year, approximately 110,500 men and 70,000 women are diagnosed with new cases worldwide.⁸
Urothelial bladder cancer has a higher incidence in the U.S. and Europe compared with Asian countries.⁹

Treatment¹⁰
Current treatment options for urothelial bladder cancer may include:
• Ablation and other local therapies
• Active surveillance
• Chemotherapy
• Immunotherapy
• Radiation therapy
• Surgery
Need for Further Research

Despite advances in the field of urothelial bladder cancer, the prognosis for patients remains poor when the disease has metastasized from the bladder to other organs. There is a clear unmet medical need for new treatment options. To learn about current clinical trials in urothelial bladder cancer, visit www.clinicaltrials.gov and search for ‘bladder cancer’.

References

Immuno-oncology is a top priority for Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Pfizer Inc. The global strategic alliance between Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Pfizer Inc., New York, US, enables the companies to benefit from each other’s strengths and capabilities and further explore the therapeutic potential of immunotherapy. The alliance is focused on developing high-priority international clinical programs to investigate immunotherapy regimens, and is striving to find new ways to treat cancer.

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