



Glossary of Terms Bladder Cancer

Anaesthesia (general, spinal, or local)	Before a procedure you will get medication to make sure that you don't feel pain. Under general anaesthesia you are unconscious and unaware of what is happening to you. Under spinal or local anaesthesia you will not feel pain in the part of your body where the procedure is done. Anaesthesia wears off gradually after the procedure.
BCG therapy	BCG is the abbreviation for the bacterium bacillus Calmette-Guérin. BCG activates the immune system by causing superficial inflammation that attracts and stimulates immune cells to kill cancer cells.
Benign tumour	A non-cancerous growth which usually will not spread to other organs.
Biopsy	A medical procedure in which a small piece of tissue is removed from the body to examine it. This is done to get information for diagnosing, monitoring, and treatment.
Bladder	Organ which collects urine from the kidneys.
Bladder neck	The group of muscles that connect the bladder to the urethra. These muscles contract to keep the urine in the bladder and relax to let the urine pass through the urethra.
Bladder wall	The different layers of tissue that shape the bladder.
Bone scan	A scan of the entire body that can be used to find bone metastases.
Carcinoma in situ (CIS)	CIS is a type of early-stage cancer with a high risk of spreading locally and metastasising to other organs or the lymph nodes.
Cardiologist	A doctor who specializes in cardiovascular diseases.
Catheter	A hollow flexible tube to insert or drain fluids from the body. In urology, catheters are generally used to drain urine from the bladder.
Chemotherapy	Treatment of cancer with drugs that are toxic to cells. Some are specifically toxic to cells that grow faster than normal, like cancer cells.
Clinical trial	These are experimental research studies designed to answer specific questions about treatments or drugs. They generally test how well a treatment works among patients with specific characteristics.
Contrast agent	A substance that increases the contrast of structures or fluids in the body. It is used in medical imaging (see also, Imaging).

CT scan	CT stands for computed tomography. It is an imaging technique that makes a series of x-ray images of the body.
CT urography	CT standard for computed tomography. CT urography is an imaging technique that uses contrast agent to improve the visibility of the lymph nodes and abdominal organs during the CT scan.
Cystoscope	A type of endoscope which is used in the urethra (see also, Endoscope, Urethra).
Cystoscopy	It is a procedure in which the doctor looks inside your body with a cystoscope inserted through the urethra.
Diagnosis	The doctor and nurses do a series of tests to understand what causes your symptoms.
Distant metastases	Tumours that have spread from the original site to other organs or bone.
Endoscope	A tube-like instrument to examine the inside of the body. Can be flexible or rigid.
Histological evaluation	The examination of tissue under a microscope.
Imaging	Taking images of the body with ultrasound, x-ray or other scanning techniques.
Immunotherapy	A type of cancer treatment which boosts the immune system to fight tumour cells.
Instillation	Administration of a liquid (medicine) by pouring or injection, drop by drop.
Intermittent catheter	A tube placed in the urethra and bladder to help you urinate. An intermittent catheter is manually placed and removed several times a day, to empty the bladder fully.
Intravenous	Injection into a vein, usually in the arm.
Intravenous urography (IVU)	An imaging technique where x-ray contrast agent is injected into the vein, usually in the arm.
Intravesical	Inside the bladder.
Local disease	The tumour is limited to the organ where it started and has not spread.
Locally advanced disease	The tumour has grown out of the organ where it started into the surrounding tissue or lymph nodes.
Lymph nodes	Small oval-shaped organs that play a role in regulating how the immune system responds.

Malignant tumour	A cancerous growth which either grows continuously or in spurts. Malignant tumours can metastasize, which means they spread throughout the body.
Metastatic disease	When a tumour has spread to other organs or lymph nodes.
MRI scan	Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an imaging technique in which strong magnetic fields and radio waves are used to make images of the body.
Mucosa	A mucous tissue lining.
Muscle-invasive bladder cancer	A tumour that has grown into the muscle of the bladder wall.
Non–muscle invasive bladder cancer	A superficial, early-stage tumour in the bladder lining that has not invaded the bladder wall.
Oncologist	A medical professional who is dedicated to the diagnosis, therapy, follow-up, and general care of a person with any type of cancer.
Open surgery	A surgical procedure in which the surgeon cuts skin and tissues to have direct access to the structures or organs.
Palliative care	A concept of care with the goal to optimize your quality of life if you cannot recover from your illness. It involves physical, psychological, social, and spiritual issues.
Pathologist	A medical professional who studies tissue, blood, or urine to understand the specific characteristics of diseases. In cancer treatment, the pathologist helps with the diagnosis and classification of tumours.
Pelvic floor muscles	Muscles that support the pelvic organs, including the bladder and rectum.
PET scan	A positron emission tomography (PET) scan is an imaging test that uses a radioactive substance called a tracer to look for disease in the body. A PET scan shows how organs and tissues are working.
Prognosis	The medical term for predicting the likely outcome of health after treatment.
Prostate	The gland which produces the fluid which carries semen. It is located in the male lower urinary tract, under the bladder and around the urethra.
Radical cystectomy	Complete surgical removal of the bladder, the endings of the ureters, the pelvic lymph nodes, and adjacent gender-specific organs (the prostate and seminal vesicles in men; the entire urethra, adjacent vagina, and uterus in women) to treat muscle-invasive bladder cancer. Radical cystectomy is performed with urinary diversion.

Recurrence	The return of cancer after treatment and after a period of time in which the cancer could not be detected. This can happen either in the place where the cancer first was detected, or somewhere else in the body. There is no standard period of time, but most doctors would consider it a recurrence if the cancer had not been detected again for at least one year.
Resection	Removal of tumours from an organ.
Resectoscope	An endoscopic tool used to remove tumour tissue.
Risk stratification	A tool to determine a treatment pathway. It is based on disease characteristics combined with personal characteristics like medical and family history or general state of health.
Surgical robot system	An instrument to help doctors perform laparoscopic surgery. The surgeon controls the robotic instrument with remote control sensors.
Systemic disease	Disease that affects the entire body.
Targeted therapy	These are drugs that target the mechanisms that cancer cells use to grow.
TNM classification	The Tumour Node Metastasis (TNM) classification is an international classification used to classify tumours according to the size and invasiveness of the tumour (T), whether any lymph nodes are affected (N) and if the cancer has spread to any other parts of your body (M).
Tumour grade	The potential of a tumour to grow aggressively.
Tumour stage	This refers to how extended a cancer is in the body. It is usually based on the size of the tumour and whether the tumour has spread to the lymph nodes or other organs.
TURBT	TURBT stands for transurethral resection of bladder tumour. Superficial tumours are removed from the bladder lining without making an incision in your lower abdomen. This type of surgery is known as minimally invasive treatment.
Ureter	One of the two tubes through which urine flows from the kidneys to the bladder.
Urethra	The tube which carries urine from the bladder and out of the body.
Urgency	The sudden need to urinate which is difficult to postpone.
Urinary cytology	The examination of voided urine or bladder-washing specimens for exfoliated cancer cells.
Urinary diversion	A surgical procedure to construct an alternative means of storing and voiding urine.

Urinary sphincter	The muscles used to control the exit of urine in the bladder, through the urethra. When either one of the muscles contracts, the urethra is sealed shut.
Urinary tract	The organ system which produces and transports urine through and out of the body. It includes two kidneys, two ureters, the bladder and the urethra. The urinary tract is similar in men and women, only men have a longer urethra.
Urologist	A doctor specialized in health and diseases of the urinary tract and the genitals.
Urothelial carcinoma	Cancer that typically occurs in the urinary system (kidney, urinary bladder, urinary tract) and indicates the type of cancer, which affects urothelial cells as opposed to other types of cells in the urothelial tract. Most bladder cancer is urothelial carcinoma (also called transitional cell carcinoma).
Vagina	The muscular tube leading from the external genitals to the cervix of the uterus in women.

This information was last updated in March 2016 and is subject to change following review by the European Cancer Patient Coalition (EPC) and EAU Guidelines Office.

This leaflet is part of a series of EAU Patient Information on Bladder Cancer. It contains general information about bladder cancer. If you have any specific questions about your individual medical situation you should consult your doctor or other professional healthcare provider.

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