

PATIENT SUMMARY



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Mental Illness and Bladder Cancer Patients: The Time for Assertive Intervention Is Now

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This article outlines results of studies that examined the wellbeing of bladder cancer patients. Based on this literature and their own intuition as doctors, the authors conclude that these patients are at high risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Operations that affect how they look and how they see themselves increase this risk, operations such as:

- The patient getting a stoma: an artificial opening made in the belly for passing pee
- An operation that damages a patient's sexual function

The authors state that it is time for what they call “**assertive intervention**” to make sure that all outcomes for bladder cancer patients are as good as they can be. The authors use their institution in the United States as an example to explain this. Here, they are developing a programme in which every new bladder cancer patient is screened by a team that is specialised in the combination of mental health and cancer treatment. If necessary, this team will guide the patient further along their journey as a cancer patient.

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