

Meet Our Presenters



Jeannie Hoffman-Censits: I'm a medical oncologist. And what that means is that I typically will see patients that are referred to my office from urologist like Dr. Porten. I see patients with locally advanced as well as metastatic bladder cancer and we give preoperative chemotherapy prior to a radical cystectomy as well as chemotherapy for patients who have metastatic or advanced disease. Nowadays we also have other modalities of therapy that medical oncologists can give such as systemic immunotherapy, like pembrolizumab and other agents, as well as targeted agents like Erdafitinib and then other chemotherapy agents. I'm going to pass it over to Sima just for her to give a quick overview of her practice and what she does for patients with bladder cancer.



Sima Porten: As a urologist and specifically a urologic oncologist, I also see mostly patients in referral and mainly patients for consideration of surgery as in case with invasive disease. But I also do a lot of cystoscopies and take care of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer.

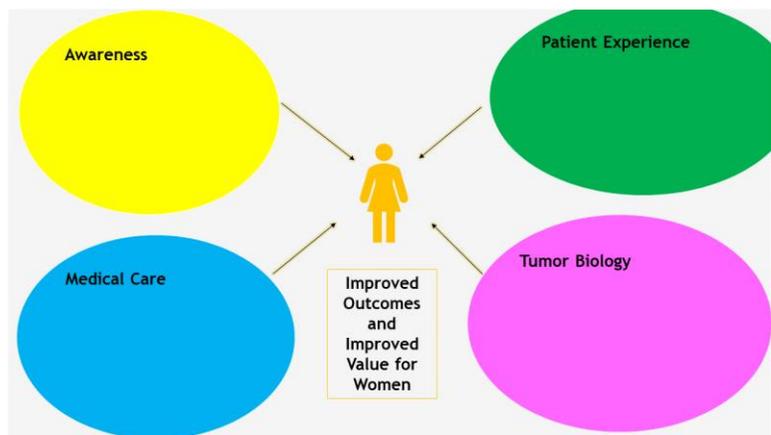
And from the same techniques in terms of being able to offer those services, I do see patients in the frontline who are presenting with gross hematuria, bladder pain, microscopic hematuria, or what we sort of categorize as a blood in the urine workup from many different aspects. And so I do see patients from across the board, but focus primarily on patients who are already diagnosed with bladder cancer.

The Basics of Women and Bladder Cancer: Gender Differences

Bladder cancer is a devastating disease with an estimated more than 80,000 new cases expected this year alone. While bladder cancer happens more often in men in 2019 it's estimated that 18,700 women will be diagnosed.

One of the most common signs of bladder cancer is blood in the urine. Because early signs like that may be ignored or believed to be related to other women's health issues, women have a higher chance of being told they have an advanced stage of bladder cancer than men when they're finally diagnosed

Jeannie: So we wanted to start out with a little bit of a framework for what this webinar will look like. Thinking about women and their experience in having bladder cancer, one thing that we're understanding is that like many patients, the first time they hear about a bladder cancer, or learn bladder cancer even existed is when either a patient or someone they love is diagnosed with the disease.



So really spreading awareness is one of the main tenants of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network. It's something that we know is very important among patients, practitioners, and others. We understand that women come to medical care with bladder cancer symptoms differently than men do and that the experience that they have once they seek and receive medical care may or may not be the same as male counterparts that are eventually diagnosed with the disease.

It was mentioned that women tend to have different outcomes when it comes to having bladder cancer compared to men. Is it based on those points that we've discussed already or could it be related to tumor biology or is it a combination of all of these? We're going to touch on all these different facets of the experience of bladder cancer in women during this talk and then hopefully fill in some of these frameworks over the course of this presentation.

Sima and I we're privileged to do an in person discussion about women and bladder cancer at the last annual BCAN Think Tank meeting. And in anticipation of that meeting we asked for experiences from women that had bladder cancer and we're going to share some of those with you tonight. Some good, some not so good. There was one patient that shared that she was diagnosed with high grade GA, possibly T1 bladder cancer at 28 years old with no risk factors, history, or other exposure that could result in bladder cancer. Although this patient reports being cancer free for five years with a young child, she's grateful to be a participant in the discussion and that of course women's health is incredibly important to her.

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