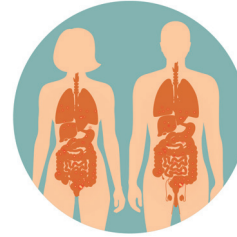


Advanced bladder cancer occurs when the abnormal cells of a muscle-invasive tumor spread beyond the bladder lining. At this point, the cancer can metastasize, or advance, meaning it has spread to other parts of the body outside of the bladder.



TREATMENT OPTIONS

The stage and the progression of the cancer will determine the treatment route that is recommended by your doctor, and this will vary depending on your bladder cancer journey so far.

Speak to your doctor about your treatment options, and what steps to take next



SYSTEMIC CHEMOTHERAPY

- Systemic chemotherapy is used to treat advanced bladder cancer as it can kill cancer cells anywhere in the body, stopping them growing and dividing
- It can be given as a pill or injection into a vein or muscle

Side effects*



Nausea and vomiting



Loss of appetite



Hair loss



Easy bleeding or bruising



Fatigue



IMMUNOTHERAPY

- Immunotherapy helps your immune system fight cancer cells by boosting or stopping certain immune responses
- This is usually given as an infusion put directly into the vein
- There are two types of immunotherapy used to treat advanced bladder cancer

Side effects*



Fatigue



Nausea



Changes in appetite



Diarrhea

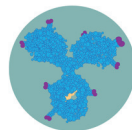


Rashes



IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

- Immune checkpoint inhibitors boost the body's immune response, by helping immune cells to recognize and kill cancer cells
- This is usually given following chemotherapy as a secondary treatment for advanced bladder cancer, or when chemotherapy did not work. Some patients who have had bladder removal surgery to treat muscle-invasive bladder cancer may be offered immunotherapy if the cancer returns



ANTIBODY DRUG CONJUGATES

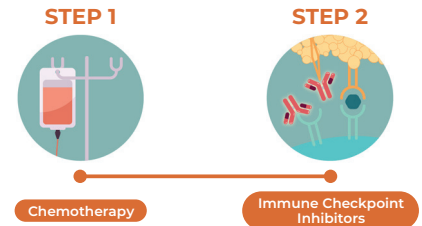


- Antibody drug conjugates are designed to target a specific part of the bladder cancer cells without killing healthy cells
- This treatment can be used when the cancer has progressed after treatment with chemotherapy and immune checkpoint inhibitors, or for people who can't have cisplatin chemotherapy and have already received other therapies



MAINTENANCE THERAPY

- In some cases, an immune checkpoint inhibitor can be used as a maintenance therapy
- Maintenance therapy works by giving immunotherapy as part of a two-step treatment regimen to maintain the benefits of an initial treatment
- For advanced bladder cancer, a treatment regimen of chemotherapy followed by an immune checkpoint inhibitor may be used as maintenance therapy, to maintain the benefits of chemotherapy and slow the progression of the cancer



TARGETED THERAPY



- Targeted therapy works by targeting and blocking the parts of the bladder cancer cells that help them to grow
- This is usually given as a pill
- This is usually recommended for people with locally advanced or metastatic bladder cancer in cases where other treatments such as chemotherapy haven't worked
- Targeted therapy can only fight cancer cells if specific genetic mutations are present so genomic analysis is always done first to assess if this treatment option is suitable

Side effects*



Mouth Sores



Diarrhea



Fatigue



Changes in fingernails or toenails



Impact on kidney or liver function

***Speak to your doctor if you are experiencing any new or worsening side effects following treatment, or for information on therapy options.**

USEFUL RESOURCES

There are also a number of resources on the BCAN website which can help you to better understand the treatments available for advanced bladder cancer:

- [Bladder cancer treatments](#)
- [Patient video series](#)
- [Treatment talk video series](#)
- [Bladder cancer treatment matrix](#)



The **Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network** is devoted to supporting people impacted by bladder cancer and is here to help every step of the way



For more information on treating advanced bladder cancer:

[BCAN.ORG/ADVANCED-BLADDER-CANCER](https://www.bcan.org/advanced-bladder-cancer)