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The Beacon

e-Newsletter of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

BCAN.ORG



December 2023
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David's Story: Make Your First Shot Your Best Shot



An annual check-up took a distressing turn when David unexpectedly received his bladder cancer diagnosis. Despite the challenges he has encountered along his bladder cancer journey, he imparts a valuable piece of advice he received at the outset of his treatment: “Make your first shot your best shot, even if it’s going to be a harder route.”

**Read David's
story**



Please Consider Making a Donation to BCAN

In the past year, BCAN proudly introduced new programs like our Female Focus online support group for women with bladder cancer, providing a dedicated space for women to connect, share, and support one another. These free educational

programs and support services are due to the generosity of people like you.

Will you consider making a year-end donation to BCAN so that we can continue to help others? Please use the link below. Thank you.

**Make a gift to
BCAN**



Help From Those Who Truly Understand

[BCAN's Survivor 2 Survivor](#) (S2S) program connects newly diagnosed bladder cancer patients and caregivers with survivors and co-survivors who have gone through similar experiences. This program matches patients with trained volunteers who offer a sympathetic ear and share their own experiences, as well as insight about their bladder cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

This is a free service. You can request to be paired with a survivor using the button below.

**Request a S2S
match**



BCAN Spring Summit for Patients and Families - Register Now!

The BCAN Spring Bladder Cancer Summit for Patients and Families will take place on March 8th and 9th, 2024 at the Marriott Seattle Airport. Our Summits are invaluable gatherings for bladder cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers.

This Summit is a unique opportunity for individuals impacted by bladder cancer to come together, share stories, and gain valuable insights from leading experts.

Just imagine being in a room full of people who really do *understand what you are going through*.

Upcoming Webinars for You

How can caregivers help when their loved one needs bladder removal?

January 23, 2024 | 4:00 PM ET

Bladder removal (radical cystectomy) is major surgery and caregivers play a critical role when patients go home. This webinar's guests will provide valuable insight into how patients and caregivers can be active and engaged members of the healthcare team during the cystectomy journey.

[Register here](#)

Bench to Bedside: Clinical trials to treat bladder cancer?

April 18, 2024 | 7:00 PM ET

Have you ever wondered how new treatments for bladder cancer come to be? It's a fascinating journey from the research lab to the doctor's office, and you play a crucial role in it.

[Register Now](#)

View past BCAN webinars
here



Let's Get Walking!

Gear up for the upcoming [Spring 2024 Walks to End Bladder Cancer!](#) Time is ticking, and your support is crucial. Take the first step by signing up now, and you can make a meaningful impact on the lives affected by this relentless disease.

With every stride, and every dollar raised, we edge closer to a world where tomorrows are brighter for patients and their loved ones. Register today and join us in striding towards a future free from the grip of bladder cancer.

Don't miss out – your early participation is a powerful force for change. Together, let's pave the way for a world without bladder cancer.



Do you have a diversion and have you had encounters with TSA when traveling?

Tell us your stories of good, and not so good, TSA experiences in your recent travels. Holiday travel for individuals with urinary diversions and their loved ones can present additional challenges beyond the typical holiday hassles at the airport.

BCAN cares and will reach out to TSA to let them know how they are helping or hindering travel with a urinary diversion. Please share with us how your trip went and happy holidays!

Tell us about your experience

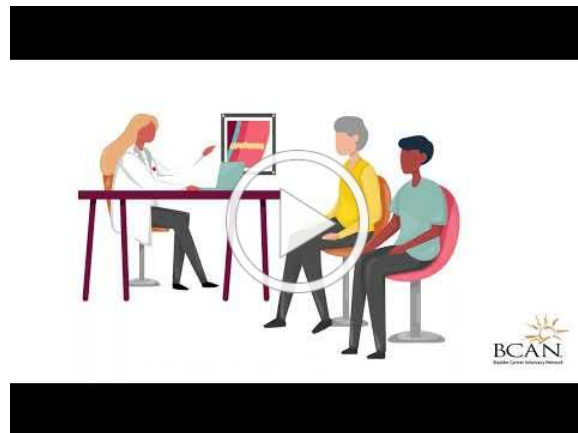
Understanding Advanced Bladder Cancer

Advanced bladder cancer occurs when the abnormal cells of a muscle-invasive tumor spread beyond the bladder lining.

Locally advanced bladder cancer may spread to the urethra or ureters or nearby organs or tissues such as the prostate in men or the uterus, cervix, or vagina in women.

We invite you to watch the video to the right to learn more about locally advanced or metastatic bladder cancer.

We also invite you to visit our web page [on advanced bladder cancer](#) for more



information.

Resources for Veterans with Bladder Cancer

Bladder cancer is the fourth-most commonly diagnosed cancer among military veterans, higher than the general population.

In November on Veterans Day and always, we provide a set of free resources for those who have served their country.

[On this page](#), you can find webinars, podcasts, and helpful links for our veterans.



Learn
more



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