



The Beacon

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE BLADDER CANCER ADVOCACY NETWORK • BCAN.ORG

September 1, 2026

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Megan's Story: Blood in Her Urine Happened Only Once



After noticing blood in her urine, Megan saw a healthcare provider who suspected a kidney stone. But when her kidney ultrasound came back normal and no other symptoms presented themselves, Megan put it behind her.

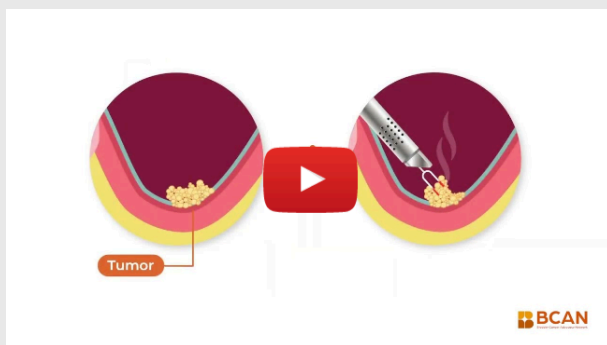
It took an offhand mention at her annual oncology visit, months later, for anyone to send her to a urologist. That appointment uncovered a bladder tumor in a 45-year-old, nonsmoking, active woman who never thought she fit the profile.

[Read Megan's Story](#)

Animated Educational Videos About Bladder Cancer

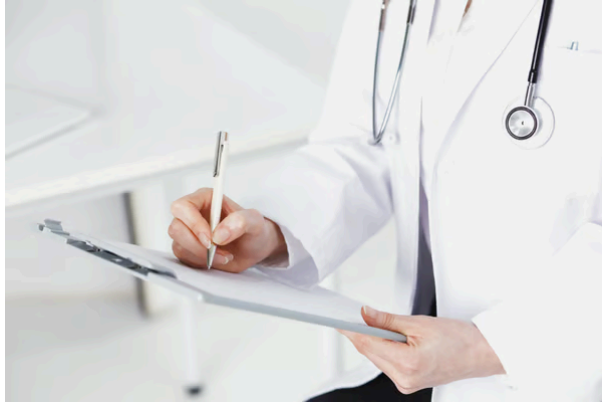
Did you know BCAN has a free library of short animated videos that explain bladder cancer terms in easy-to-digest ways?

This video explains what a **TURBT** is and how they are performed. If you like this, you'll love our full library!



[Explore BCAN's free video library](#)

How Do Doctors Diagnose Bladder Cancer?



Bladder cancer is diagnosed using **urine tests, cystoscopies, biopsies and imaging scans** to detect abnormal cells and confirm tumors.

Early diagnosis improves survival rates and helps guide effective treatment decisions.

[Read about bladder cancer diagnosis](#)

Toll-Free Support Line for Bladder Cancer Patients and Families

In partnership with CancerCare, BCAN has launched a toll-free support line for bladder cancer patients, their loved ones, and the bereaved. Calling this line offers:

- Professional oncology social workers
- Psychosocial support
- Free resources for patients, loved ones, and the bereaved

**Bladder Cancer
Support Line**
833-275-4222

Hours

Monday–Thursday:

10am–6pm ET

Friday: 10am–5pm ET

[Call Now](#)



[Learn more about our support line](#)

Female Focus Support Group: Meeting Online TODAY



On the first Tuesday of every month, BCAN hosts a virtual support group to talk about issues and concerns that are unique to women facing bladder cancer and meet others who know what you are going through. It is moderated by nurse and BCAN patient advocate Karen Sachse, RN, MSN and Social Worker Miriam Pomerantz Kadosh, MSW, LCSW.

Tonight at 7pm ET, the session will focus on **seeking second opinions** and choosing providers. You must register for each session you plan to attend. We look forward to

seeing you!

[Register now](#)

Meet This Month's Partner in Progress: Ferring Pharmaceuticals

BCAN is proud to partner with [Ferring Pharmaceuticals](#) during September in our shared quest to create better todays and more tomorrows for bladder cancer patients and families.



[Learn more about Ferring](#)

Newly Diagnosed? We're Here to Help



Newly Diagnosed With Bladder Cancer: First Steps & Support

If you've just been [diagnosed with bladder cancer](#), you may be feeling overwhelmed, uncertain, or even relieved to finally have answers. Whatever you're feeling, you don't have to face this alone. This page will help you understand what to do next, connect with support, and find trusted resources to guide you through the days ahead.

[Access our free resources](#)

How BCAN Drives Research Progress

BCAN fills a vital gap in the research landscape by funding studies that directly

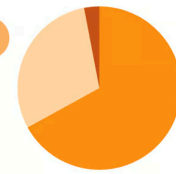
impact patients' lives: bladder-sparing therapies, better ways to help patients make treatment decisions and research into the emotional, cognitive and sexual impacts of treatment.

BCAN largely funds research that will inform therapeutics, with a sizeable proportion of awards supporting research on patient-centered care.

Therapeutics (67%)

Patient-Centered Care (30%)

Epidemiology (3%)



These projects might not fit neatly into traditional funding categories, but they matter profoundly to patients and families. Those who support BCAN ensure that bold, promising ideas take root and grow.

[Read BCAN's research story](#)

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Survivor to Survivor

We connect newly diagnosed bladder cancer patients with trained volunteers who have gone through similar experiences.

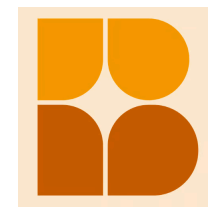
[Learn more »](#)



Compare Bladder Cancer Treatments

Our treatment matrix helps patients and caregivers understand treatment pathways for different types of bladder cancer.

[Learn more »](#)



Survivorship Care Plans

We have developed three unique survivorship care plan (SCP) templates based on expert input and current data.

[Learn more »](#)

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Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, 4520 East West Highway Suite 610, Bethesda, MD 20814, United States