BLADDER CANCER ADVOCACY NETWORK

GET THE FACTS

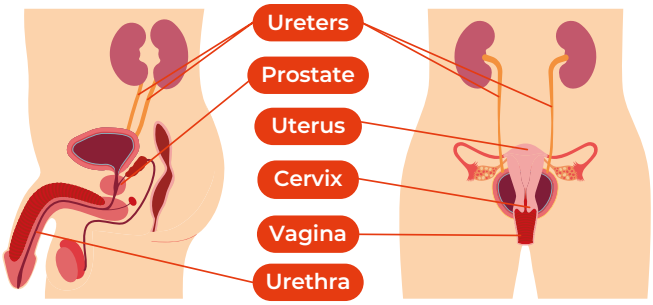
WHAT IS ADVANCED BLADDER CANCER?

BCAN Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

Bladder cancer occurs when cells grow abnormally and begin to form tumors in the lining of the bladder. Sometimes, cancerous cells metastasize, or advance, meaning they have spread beyond the bladder to other parts of the body.

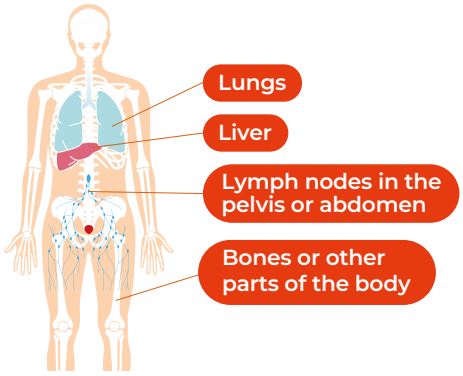
Locally Advanced

Locally advanced bladder cancer most commonly spreads to:



Metastatic

Metastatic bladder cancer most commonly spreads to:



PROGRESSION OF BLADDER CANCER

Bladder cancer may be diagnosed at an early stage and then continue to advance

EARLY STAGE
Cancer cells are in the inner lining of the bladder

LOCALLY ADVANCED
Cancer cells spread locally, near the bladder

The cancer may already be advanced at the point of diagnosis

METASTATIC
Cancer cells spread to areas throughout the body

RECURRENT BLADDER CANCER

DIAGNOSIS

THERAPY OR SURGERY

Cancer has returned

RECURRENT BLADDER CANCER

Recurrent bladder cancer occurs when cancer cells return after therapy or surgery is administered.
It is treatable, and treatments may vary depending on the stage of the cancer or if a previous treatment did not work.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF BLADDER CANCER

Bladder cancer symptoms

- Blood in urine (hematuria)
- Pain when urinating
- Needing to urinate more often than usual or struggling to pass urine

Advanced bladder cancer symptoms

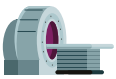
- Being unable to urinate
- Lower back pain on one side of the body
- Loss of appetite and unexplained weight loss
- Increased tiredness or weakness
- Pain in bones

Many of these symptoms can be caused by something other than bladder cancer, but it is important to get checked if experiencing any new or worsening symptoms. Speak to your doctor for more information.

DIAGNOSING ADVANCED BLADDER CANCER



ULTRASOUND SCAN



CT SCAN



MRI SCAN

These scans can detect if the cancer has spread beyond the bladder, and where in the body it has spread to.



BONE SCAN

If you are experiencing any bone pain, an additional scan may be recommended to see if the cancer has spread to any bones.

Your doctor will carry out an assessment to establish which tests are the most appropriate for you

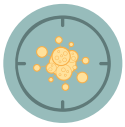
TREATMENT OPTIONS

There are a number of treatment options available for advanced bladder cancer. Your doctor will be able to advise on which treatment option is right for you.



CHEMOTHERAPY

Systemic chemotherapy is used to treat cancer that has advanced beyond the bladder to other parts of the body



TARGETED THERAPY

Targeted therapy works by targeting specific genes and proteins involved in the growth and survival of cancer cells



IMMUNOTHERAPY

Immunotherapy helps the immune system to fight cancer cells by boosting, or stopping certain immune responses



MAINTENANCE THERAPY

Maintenance therapy works by giving immunotherapy as part of a two-step treatment regimen to maintain the benefits of an initial treatment

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

FINDING SUPPORT

It can also be helpful to talk to other people who are navigating this experience, either in person or online. Recommended support services include:



Talking to friends, family or other people going through a similar experience



Joining online support groups



Attending in-person support groups

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

BCAN
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network