

# Bladder Cancer

## What is bladder cancer?

Urothelial carcinoma, also known as transitional cell carcinoma, is the most common type of bladder cancer, accounting for approximately **90% of cases in the UK**.<sup>1</sup>

Rarer types of bladder cancer include<sup>1</sup>:

Squamous cell bladder cancer

Adenocarcinoma

Small cell bladder cancer

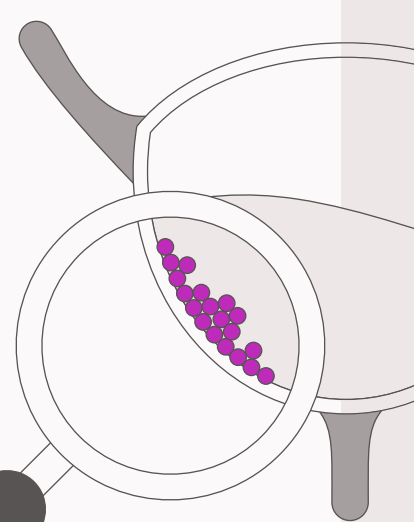
Sarcoma

Bladder cancer usually starts in the inner lining of the bladder. This lining has two names<sup>2</sup>:

- The transitional epithelium
- the urothelium

If the cancer **spreads into or through the muscle layer** of the bladder, it's called **muscle invasive bladder cancer**. Doctors might also use the terms<sup>3</sup>:

- locally advanced bladder cancer
- metastatic or advanced bladder cancer



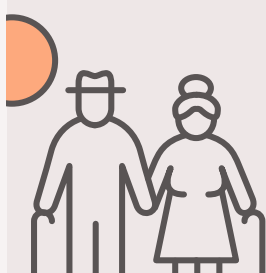
## Prevalence

Bladder cancer is the **11<sup>th</sup> most common cancer** in the UK<sup>2</sup>



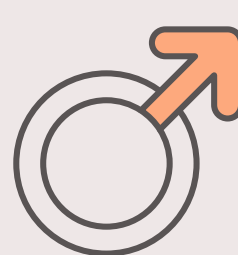
Bladder cancer is **more common in older people**

with **56% of cases** (2016 – 2018) and **71% of deaths** (2017 – 2019) occurring in people aged 75 and over<sup>4,5</sup>



There are around **10,300 new cases** diagnosed (2016 – 2018) and **5,600 deaths** (2017 – 2019) every year<sup>5</sup>

More men than women are diagnosed with the disease, with **73% of cases occurring in males**<sup>4</sup>



## Risk factors

Bladder cancer is associated with some common **risk factors** including<sup>6</sup>:



Chemicals at work



Smoking



Family history



Infections

## Signs and symptoms

The main symptom of bladder cancer is blood in the urine, **80% of people** experience this. The **other symptoms** of bladder cancer can include<sup>7</sup>:

80%



Pain or a burning sensation when passing urine



Passing urine very suddenly (urgency)



Pain in your back, lower tummy or bones



Passing urine very often (frequency)



Weight loss for no reason



Feeling tired and unwell

## Treatment options

A patient's **treatment options** are largely dependent on the stage of disease and may include<sup>8</sup>:



Surgery



Chemotherapy



Immunotherapy



Radiotherapy



Speak to your doctor or healthcare team for more advice or information about bladder cancer or if you are concerned about any symptoms or risk factors that you may have.

### References:

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4. Cancer Research UK. Bladder cancer incidence statistics. Available at <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/bladder-cancer/incidence#heading:Zero> Last accessed: May 2023
5. Cancer Research UK. Bladder cancer statistics. Available at <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/bladder-cancer#heading:Zero> Last accessed: May 2023
6. Cancer Research UK. Bladder cancer risks and causes. Available at <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/bladder-cancer/risks-causes> Last accessed: May 2023
7. Cancer Research UK. Bladder cancer symptoms. Available at <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/bladder-cancer/symptoms> Last accessed: May 2023
8. Cancer Research UK. Treatment for bladder cancer. Available at: <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/bladder-cancer/treatment>. Last Accessed: May 2023.