What Is Bladder Cancer?

Bladder cancer develops when the cells that comprise the bladder begin to expand beyond control. When more cancerous cells grow they could create a tumor, and over time, they can grow to other parts of the body.

It is an organ that sits hollow located in the lower part of the pelvis. It is a muscles that are flexible and can expand to hold urine, and then squeeze to push it out from the body. The main function of the bladder is to hold urine. Urine is a liquid waste produced by the two kidneys, and then pumped into the bladder via two tubes, referred to as the ureters. When you go to the bathroom your muscles in the bladder contract and urine is pushed through the urinary tract via an organ called the urethra.

Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of cancerous bladder could be:

- Blood in urine is a condition that can cause the urine appears bright red, or cola-colored but sometimes, it appears as normal, and blood is detected in an examination in the lab.
- Frequent urination
- Urination painstakingly
- Back discomfort

Causes

Bladder cancer develops when the bladder cells develop modifications (mutations) within their DNA. Cells' DNA contains instructions telling the cell what it should do. The modifications tell cells to multiply quickly and continue to live even when healthy cells cease to exist. The abnormal cells create an abnormal tumor that could take over and kill normal body tissues. Over time the cells that are abnormal may disintegrate and then spread (metastasize) throughout the body.

Types of bladder cancer

Urothelial carcinoma (transitional cell carcinoma)

Urothelial carcinoma(also referred to as the transitional cancer (TCC) is the most prevalent form of cancer in the bladder. If you suffer from bladder cancer, it's almost guaranteed to be an urothelial cancer. The cancers begin in the Urothelial cells that cover the inside of the bladder.

Urothelial cells also line different areas in the urinary tract for instance, the part in the kidney which connects the urinary tract (called the kidney pelvis) and the ureters as well as the urethra. People suffering from bladder cancer can develop tumors in these areas also, which is why every part parts of the urinary tract must to be examined for tumors.

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Other types of bladder cancer

Other kinds of cancer may be found in the bladder however, they are less frequent than Urothelial (transitional cell) cancer.

Squamous cell carcinoma

In the US, just 1 to two percent in bladder cancers is classified as squamous cell carcinomas. When examined under a microscope, the cells appear similar to the flat cells located on the skin's surface. The majority of squamous cell carcinomas that occur in bladders are invading.

Adenocarcinoma

About 1percent of all bladder cancers Adenocarcinomas. The cancerous cells have a lot common with gland-forming cells from colon cancers . Adenocarcinomas that affect the bladder are cancerous.

Small cell carcinoma

About one percent in bladder cancers is small cell carcinomas. They originate in nerve-like cell types called neuroendocrine cell. They can grow rapidly and typically need to be treated with chemotherapy similar to that used for small-cell cancers of the lung.

Sarcoma

Sarcomas originate in the bladder's muscle cells, they are however extremely uncommon. More details can be found within Soft Tissue Sarcoma and Rhabdomyosarcoma. These less well-known forms of cancers in the bladder (other than Sarcoma) are treated similar to TCCs particularly early-stage tumors. However, if chemotherapy is required, various medications could be utilized.

Invasive vs. non-invasive bladder cancer

Bladder cancers can be identified based on the extent to which they have spread to the bladder's wall:

Non-invasive cancers occur only within the inner cell layer (the epithelium transitional). They are not growing into the layers beneath.

Invasive cancers have encroached into the deeper layers of the bladder wall. They tend to multiply and are difficult to cure.

A bladder cancer could be classified as non-muscle-invasive or superficial. These terms refer to cancers that are non-invasive and any tumors that are invasive and haven't grown into the muscles of bladder.

Papillary vs. flat cancer

Bladder cancers can also be classified into two types, flat and papillary, based on how they develop.

Papillary cancers form small, finger-like projections that run starting from the inside of the bladder to the hollow middle. Papillary tumors tend to grow towards the middle of the bladder, but do not expand deep into the bladder layers. These tumors are known as papillary cancers that are not invasive. They are very low-grade (slow growth) papillary cancer that is non-invasive is often referred to as papillary urothelial Neoplasm with low-malignant Potential (PUNLMP) and can have a high rate of success.

Flat carcinomas do not expand towards the hollow portion of the bladder. If a flat tumor grows restricted to the inner cell layer, then it's referred to as non-invasive flat cancer or flat cancer in the situ (CIS).

When to see a doctor

Make an appointment with Dr. Jamal Azmi if you have any persistent signs or symptoms that worry you.

Call for appointment on :