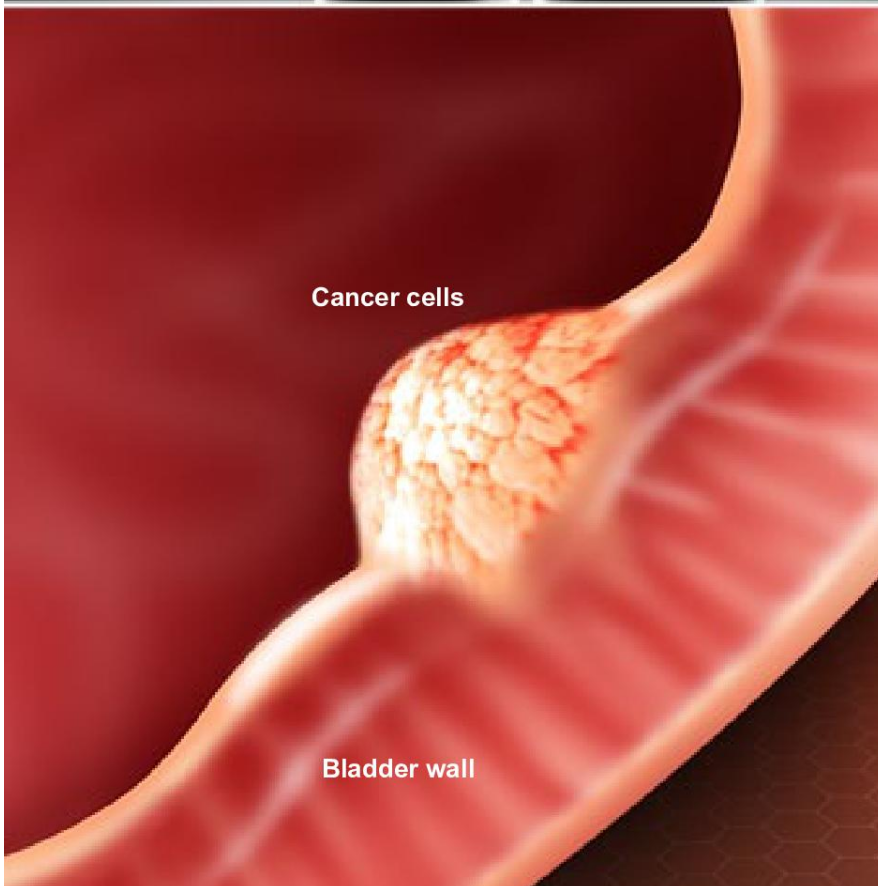
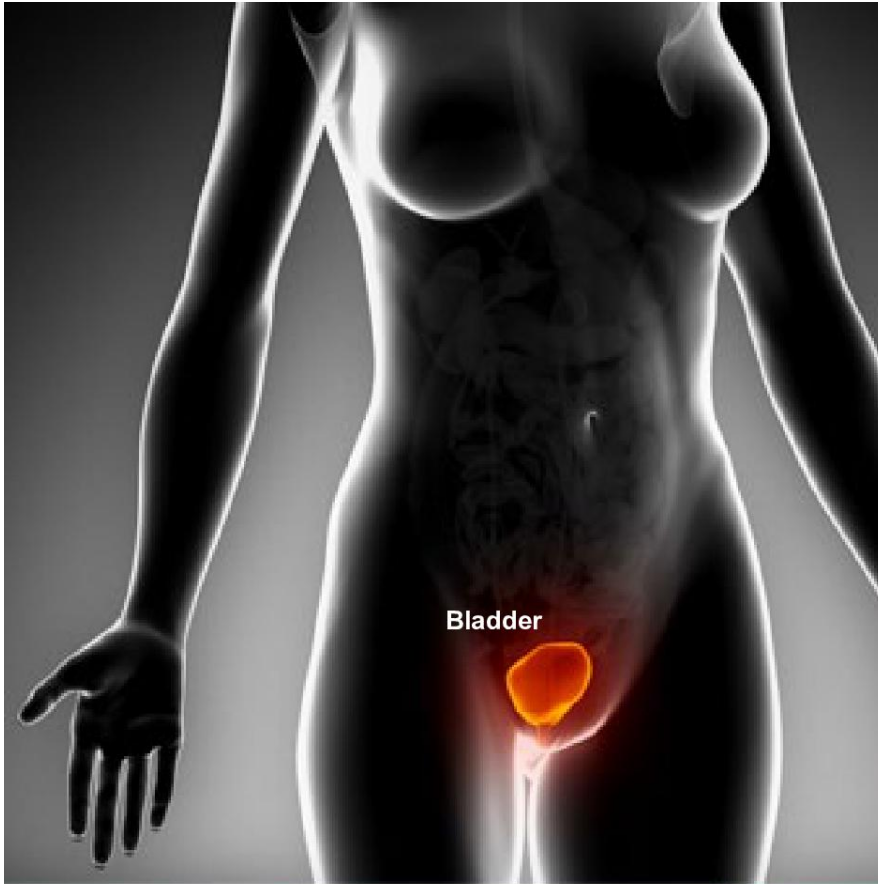




## Bladder Cancer



### Overview

This is a cancer that begins in your bladder. This muscular organ stores your urine and pushes it out of your body when you urinate. Bladder cancer most commonly affects older people. Without proper treatment, it can spread to other parts of your body.

### Causes

The cause of this cancer is not fully understood. It results from cell mutation, usually in the cells that line the inside of the bladder's wall. Toxins, chemicals or radiation may cause mutations in bladder cells.

### Risk Factors

You have a higher risk for bladder cancer if you are a smoker. You have a higher risk if you are age 40 or older. Bladder cancer is more common in men and in people who are white. It is also more common in people who have been exposed to certain medications or chemicals. You have a higher risk for this disease if you have frequent bladder infections. And, you have an increased risk if you have a personal or a family history of cancer.

### Symptoms

Symptoms may include blood in your urine. This blood may discolor your urine. Or, your urine may appear normal, but traces of blood may be detected with a lab test. You may experience frequent or painful urination. You may also have pain in your back or your pelvic region.

### Treatment

Treatment options depend on the type and the stage of your cancer. You may benefit from surgery to remove cancerous tissue, which may include removing part or all of your bladder. You may benefit from biological therapy. You may also benefit from chemotherapy or from radiation therapy. Your healthcare provider can create a care plan that is right for your needs.