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Bladder Cancer

UNDERSTANDING BLADDER CANCER

If you have been told you have bladder cancer, you likely have many questions and concerns. There are many types of treatment for bladder cancer. Cancer of the bladder can occur at any age, but it usually strikes those over 50 years old. If detected and treated early, bladder cancer is almost always cured.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Blood in the urine is usually the first sign of bladder cancer. Many times, blood in the urine cannot be noticed by the individual, but is found by urinalysis done as part of a regular checkup or treatment for another medical condition. If blood can be seen in the urine, it may change the color of urine from smoky to rusty to bright red. The blood may disappear for days or even weeks, only to reappear. Blood in the urine may be caused by a number of medical problems besides cancer. These include infections, benign tumors, and stones. If blood is noticed, a doctor should be consulted to determine its cause.

To determine if cancer is present, the physician will decide what tests are needed to properly diagnose and what treatment is necessary.