



Questions to ask when presenting to an Oncologist with Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer

What kind of treatment do I need for my type of bladder cancer? Please explain:

Muscle invasive bladder cancer

- Systemic chemotherapy (given intravenously)
 - Neoadjuvant chemotherapy (chemotherapy before surgery to shrink the tumour)
 - Adjuvant chemotherapy (chemotherapy after surgery to prevent the cancer returning)
- Immunotherapy (available via a medical trial)
- Radiation therapy

For the treatment I require:

- What are some of the drug names?
- How do they work?
- How are they administered?
- How often are they administered?
- How long is each treatment?
- Where do I need to go for this treatment?
- What are the common side effects?
- What can help reduce/manage the side effects?
- Will I require time off work?
- Will be able to go about my normal daily tasks?
- How will I know if the treatment is working?

Traditional chemotherapy can cause unpleasant side effects, are there any new chemotherapy regimes available that could be considered in my case?

- To reduce side effects
- Prevent hair loss



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- How long do I have to make a decision?

- After my initial treatment, what future tests, scans and check-ups will I require and how often?
 - Blood tests, urinalysis
 - X-rays
 - Scans (CT, MRI, bone, PET)
 - Cystoscopies
 - Additional chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy

- Do you have any other patients I could talk to who have already been through this treatment?

- What kind of support is available for myself and/or my partner?
 - Counsellor
 - Support groups

- For any treatment I require, what will Medicare cover?

- I do/do not have private health insurance
 - What is the impact financially?
 - What is the impact on expediency of treatment?