



## Questions to ask when presenting to a Urologist to discuss treatment for Bladder Cancer

- How likely is it that the cancer will spread to other parts of my body without further treatment?
- How likely is it that the cancer will spread to other parts of my body if I do have further treatment?
- Is it necessary to have treatment immediately?

- What are my treatment options?

Explain the following:

### **Non muscle-invasive bladder cancer**

- TURBT : transurethral resection of bladder tumour
- Immunotherapy : BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin)
- Intravesical chemotherapy (given directly into the bladder via a catheter)

### **Muscle invasive Bladder Cancer**

- Surgery to remove all or part of my bladder : radical cystectomy
- Preserving my bladder, treatment with chemotherapy and radiation
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation
- Checkpoint Immunotherapy (available via a medical trial)

- What is the likely treatment schedule?
  - How many treatments?
  - How often?
  - How long is each treatment?
  - Where will I have the treatment?
- Is there anything I should do to prepare for treatment, e.g exercise, diet?
- How much time off work will I require?



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- Are there any short term and/or long term side effects of my treatment?
- What additional treatment, scans and tests am I likely to need in the future?
- Do you specialise in treating my type of cancer?
  - Approximately how many cases do you treat per year?
- What is a Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) and will you be referring my case to them for review?  
(for muscle invasive bladder cancer)
- 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
- Is there another specialist who treats this type of cancer that you recommend for a second opinion?
- 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?