



Questions to ask when presenting to a Surgeon after Bladder Cancer has been diagnosed

- What is a radical cystectomy?
- Why do you recommend this surgery for my type of cancer?
- What will you remove?
 - the bladder
 - the uterus/prostate
 - the lymph nodes
 - the ovaries
- What options do you recommend as a urinary diversion for me? Please explain each option: (including advantages/disadvantages)
 - urostomy/ileal conduit - stoma
 - neobladder
 - continent urinary diversion
- How do you recommend this surgery be performed? Please explain each option:
 - Traditional open surgery
 - Laparoscopic surgery
 - Robotic surgery
- Do you recommend I do anything to prepare for this surgery, e.g. diet, exercise?
- How long will the surgery take?
- Can this surgery be performed in either a public or private hospital?



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- How long will I need to stay in hospital?

- Explain what I can expect post surgery:
 - Will I need to be in intensive care?
 - When can I expect to be up and walking?
 - How long will I need a catheter?
 - What other drainage tubes will I have and how long will they be in?
 - What pain management will I be given?

- What can I expect once the catheter is removed?
 - How often will I need to go to the bathroom during the day?
 - What will happen during the night?
 - Will I need to self-catheterise?
 - Who will teach me how to use/manage my new urinary diversion?

- How long will it take me to recover from this surgery? When will I be able to:
 - Return to work
 - Resume my normal daily tasks
 - Resume my exercise routine
 - Drive
 - Swim
 - Travel

- Is there anything I will no longer be able to do as a result of this surgery?

- What are the possible complications of the radical cystectomy surgery?
 - During surgery
 - Post surgery



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- What are the possible complications (short term and long term) of living with a
 - Stoma
 - Neobladder
 - Continent urinary diversion

- Will I need any special aids or appliances after the surgery:
 - Urostomy bags
 - Catheters
 - Continence pads
 - What is the cost of these?

- How can I find out if I am eligible for the Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS)?

- How do I join the Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS)?
 - Will I be eligible for free or subsidised products as a stoma patient under this scheme?

- How will this surgery change my physical relationship with my partner?

- Are you able to preserve or minimise the damage to the nerves of the penis for sexual function?

- How will this surgery affect my fertility?

- What is my prognosis after the radical cystectomy surgery? Will I require further treatment?

- How long do I have to make a decision?

- Do you specialise in this type of surgery?



Questions to ask when presenting to a Surgeon after Bladder Cancer has been diagnosed

- What is your experience with radical cystectomy surgery for each type of urinary diversion?
 - urostomy/ileal conduit - stoma
 - neobladder
 - continent urinary diversion

- Do you have any previous patients I could talk to about the various urinary diversion options?

- Would radiation therapy be an alternative option for me?
 - Could I have a cystectomy in the future if I relapse after radiation therapy?

- 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?