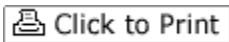




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Health Matters: Bladder Cancer

Triston Sanders - Medical Anchor

Every year in America, an estimated 55,000 new cases of bladder cancer will be diagnosed. People more at risk for this condition would include men over the age of 40, smokers and those that have been exposed to certain chemicals.

This Health Matters takes a look at bladder cancer to inform you about the symptoms and treatments of this disease.

Cancer of the bladder is becoming more prevalent as our population ages. At the first sign of symptoms, it is important to seek medical treatment.

Bill Lynn, a urology patient, says, "Found one tumor, very early detection. It was actually a miracle that it was discovered at that time."

Surrounded by a room of handprints from patients he has treated for cancer, Dr. Eric Rost says that knowing the symptoms of bladder cancer saves lives.

"The signs and symptoms of bladder cancer are number one, blood. If you see blood or a darkening of your urine that should cause great concern."

Additional symptoms of this disease may be: pain or burning when urinating, change in bladder habits, feeling a strong urge to urinate without producing much urine and unexplained lower back pain.

Dr. Rost explains how bladder cancer is diagnosed.

"A common technique is to use a systoscope, which is like a little periscope that we can look inside the bladder, however you really also have to look at the outside of the bladder."

Bladder cancer is usually curable if it is diagnosed while the cancer is still contained in the bladder, and the good news is that 74 percent of bladder cancers are diagnosed at this stage. At this time the cancer is gone.

The new technologies in treating this disease have lead to a higher success rate as well as a decrease in side effects and complications caused by bladder cancer. Early stage bladder cancer is highly curable when detected early and treated promptly. Talk to your doctor if your doctor about any concerns you may have.

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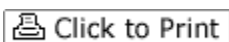
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