

HAVE YOU HEARD OF BLADDER CANCER?

MAYBE
IT'S TIME
YOU DID.

BLADDER
CANCER
IS NOT A RARE
CANCER

EVERY YEAR
ALMOST
20,000
PEOPLE ARE
DIAGNOSED
IN THE UK

Of those diagnosed:

- **16,547** in England ¹
- **1,691** in Scotland ²
- **669** in Wales ³
- **230** in N. Ireland ⁴



IT CAN AFFECT
ALL AGES
& SEXES



Bladder cancer is
more common in men
but has **worse outcomes**
in women ⁵

RISK FACTORS



SMOKING TOBACCO

is the biggest cause of preventable
bladder cancer here in the UK ⁵

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS



BLOOD IN YOUR WEE

no matter how much
or how many times



FREQUENT NEED TO WEE

or sudden urgency



RECURRING U.T.I.s

– urinary infections
that don't clear up

A NEGLECTED CANCER

Results from a UK patient survey (2021–2022).⁶

Diagnosis

58% were **not aware of the signs & symptoms** of bladder cancer before diagnosis

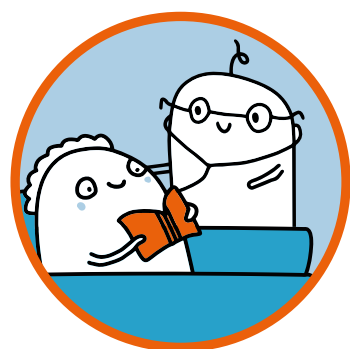
73% had **visible blood in urine** prior to being diagnosed with bladder cancer

64% **did not know visible blood in urine was a sign and symptom of bladder cancer** before diagnosis

63% were **diagnosed with another condition** before bladder cancer

37% were **mis-diagnosed** with a urinary tract infection before bladder cancer

63% said **the length of time it took to be diagnosed** caused them concern or extra worry



Treatment

90% **did not receive information about clinical trials** & only 5% took part in one

29% **needed more information** about treatment options and duration

41% **needed more information** about the side effects of treatment

1. 2. 3. 4. **Data Sources for England, Scotland, N Ireland & Wales:** cancerdata.nhs.uk, Scottish Cancer, Wales Informatics, Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

5. <https://fightbladdercancer.co.uk/get-help/what-bladder-cancer>

6. https://fightbladdercancer.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/Patient_Experience_Survey.pdf

7. <https://www.fightbladdercancer.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/20210518-Fight-Bladder-Cancer-Exemplar.pdf>

Impact on daily life

44% said their **financial situation was impacted** due to bladder cancer

73% took an **early retirement** and **10% were temporarily off work** due to bladder cancer

24% said **treatment impacted their ability to carry out daily activities**

10% were **not able to live a full life** following their diagnosis and treatment

12% were **not able to cope** with the impact of their diagnosis and treatment

47% said the **long-term emotional impact of treatment for bladder cancer** has not been fully addressed and treated



Support

51% were **not offered emotional support** to help cope with their diagnosis

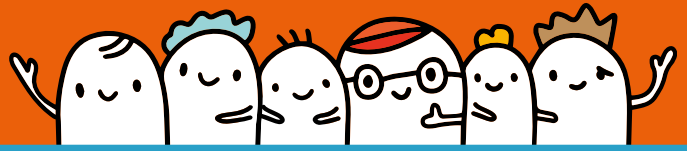
50% needed **financial support** during treatment and care, but **68% of them did not get it**

50% **did not receive information** on peer support groups or charities.

THE URGENT NEED

There is an urgent need for action to improve the experiences of people affected by bladder cancer.

Bladder cancer care and treatment remains highly variable, with patients experiencing very different patterns of referral at diagnosis, assessment and treatment across the UK.⁷



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

● **Inquire about a national bladder cancer audit**

Raise a parliamentary question about when an audit of bladder cancer care across the country will be conducted to reduce regional variations in care and outcomes.

● **Push for bladder cancer guidelines to be updated**

Ask a parliamentary question about when the bladder cancer guidelines will be updated. Bladder cancer guidelines have not been updated since 2015 though they are supposed to be updated at least once every 5 years.

● **Advocate for self-referral pathways**

Table a question or motion in Parliament to discuss a pilot scheme for self-referral pathways for bladder cancer symptoms, to allow individuals to bypass the usual GP referral process and obtain a faster diagnosis.

● **Standardise fast-track referral criteria**

Write to the Secretary of State for Health, urging a UK-wide adoption of Fast-Track criteria forms for bladder cancer. Adoption of a standardised set of criteria would enable healthcare providers to swiftly identify and refer individuals at high risk of bladder cancer for investigation and treatment.

● **Optimise NHS 111 referral pathway for blood in pee**

Collaborate with health committees to optimise the NHS 111 referral pathway for early detection of bladder cancer, particularly focusing on the symptom of "blood in pee" to improve early detection.

● **Ensure access to genomic testing**

Propose funding increases for genomic testing for high-risk bladder cancer patients in budget debates, so patients do not miss out on innovative new approaches.

● **Support the Tobacco & Vapes Bill**

Smoking tobacco is the biggest cause of preventable bladder cancer in the UK. Vote in favour of the Tobacco & Vapes Bill (2024) as the Bill progresses through Parliament.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

For all of the above, we have templates, resources and guides for you.

Please contact our policy team for access to these resources:
shannon@fightbladdercancer.co.uk

@BladderCancerUK
fightbladdercancer.co.uk



bladder
CANCER

Reg charity: 1198773 & SC051881