

Urology Cancer Glossary

adrenal glands	A pair of endocrine organs near the kidney that produces glucocorticoid, mineralocorticoid, and epinephrine and norepinephrine
benign	Tumors that do not spread beyond their local area; non-cancerous
biopsy	Removal of a small amount of tissue to diagnose the disease process
bladder	A hollow organ in the lower abdomen that stores urine, the liquid waste produced by the kidneys
bone scan	A technique to create images of bones on a computer screen or on film. A small amount of radioactive material is injected into a blood vessel and travels through the bloodstream; it collects in the bones and is detected by a scanner
cancer	A group of diseases where abnormal cells spread throughout the body
carcinoma in situ	Cancer (carcinoma) that involves only cells in the tissue in which it began (in situ) and that has not spread to nearby tissues
catheter	A flexible tube used to deliver fluids into or withdraw fluids from the body. A Foley catheter is a soft plastic or rubber tube that is inserted into the bladder to drain urine
chemotherapy	Any cancer treatment that uses drugs to kill cancer cells. Intravenous chemotherapy refers to treatment in which the drugs are given through a vein
continent pouch or reservoir (Indiana pouch)	A continent pouch or new bladder is fashioned from part of the bowel and used if the urethra is removed in the operation. Urine is drained by passing a small catheter into the new bladder

creatinine	A compound that is excreted from the body in urine. Creatinine levels are measured to monitor kidney function
CT or CAT scan	Special x-ray that uses computers to produce detailed pictures of a cross section of the body
cystectomy	Surgical removal of the bladder
cystoscopy	Examination of the bladder and urethra using a cystoscope, which is inserted into the urethra. A cystoscope is a thin, tube-like instrument with a light and a lens for viewing. It also may include a tool used to remove tissue for a biopsy
DRE (Digital Rectal Exam)	Insertion of a gloved, lubricated finger into the rectum to feel the prostate
ejaculation	Ejection of sperm and seminal fluid from the penis
external sphincter	Skeletal muscles below the prostate used to control the flow of urine
fulguration	Destroying tissue using an electric current
Gerota's fascia	A fibrous envelope of tissue that surrounds the kidney. (also called renal fascia and Gerota's capsule)
hormone therapy	Treatment that reduces the normal amount of male hormones to decrease cancer cell growth
hormone refractory prostate cancer	Prostate cancer that previously was treated with androgen deprivation and has begun to grow despite medication to block or remove testosterone
ileostomy	See urostomy
ileal conduit	See urostomy

impotence	Inability to have sex or loss of sexual function
incontinence	Loss of the ability to hold urine in the bladder and control passing urine
intravesical chemotherapy	Chemotherapy agents delivered directly into the bladder
Jackson-Pratt drain	A thin rubber tube inserted into the body to drain fluid from and around the area where surgery was performed
kidneys	The kidneys make urine by removing wastes and extra water from the blood. Urine collects in the renal pelvis in the middle of each kidney and passes into the bladder through a tube called a ureter
LHRH (Luteinizing Hormone-Releasing Hormone)	A hormone that stimulates the sex hormones in men and women
LHRH agonists	Man-made compounds that block the effects of LHRHs
lymph nodes	Small bean shaped organs scattered throughout the body that filter bacteria or cancer cells that travel through the lymphatic system
lymphatic system	Organs that produce and store infection-fighting cells. Includes lymph nodes, bone marrow, spleen and thymus
malignant	Cancerous tumors that are capable of spreading to other parts of the body
metastasis	The spread of cancer from one body part to another
MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)	A noninvasive diagnostic technique that produces computerized images of internal body tissues and is based on nuclear magnetic resonance of atoms within the body induced by the application of radio waves
nephrectomy	Surgical removal of a kidney

orchiectomy	Surgical removal of a testicle
orthotopic neobladder	When the urethra can be preserved, a part of the small intestine is used to make a new pouch that is connected to the remaining part of the urethra. Urine passes out of the body through the natural urethra. Bladder empties normally, but you may have to train your abdominal muscles and learn to use a catheter to drain the urine several times a day
PAP (Prostate acid phosphatase)	An enzyme made by the prostate that may be elevated in prostate cancer, particularly when cancer is present and has spread
pathologist	A physician who specializes in diagnosing diseases by examining tissue, blood, and body fluids using various laboratory techniques
PET (Positive emission tomography) scan	Uses small amounts of radioactivity to take detailed pictures of different areas inside your body
PSA (Prostate specific antigen)	A protein made by the prostate that may be elevated in diseases of the prostate such as inflammation, enlargement or cancer
radiation therapy	Treatment with a series of x-rays that kill cancer cells inside the body
radionuclide	A small amount of radioactive glucose that is injected into a vein in order to produce detailed, computerized pictures of areas inside the body where the glucose is used
rectum	The last 5 or 6 inches of the colon leading to the outside of the body
renal cell carcinoma	A type of kidney cancer: cancerous cells are found in the lining of very small tubes (tubules) in the kidney (Most common type of kidney cancer in adults)
renal pelvis	The area at the center of the kidney. Urine collects here and is funneled into the ureter, the tube that connects the kidney to the bladder

scrotum	The external sac that holds the testicles
seminal vesicles	Small glands near the prostate that produce some of the fluid that nourishes sperm
staging	Process of determining how far the cancer has progressed using blood tests and other diagnostic tests
stoma	In bladder cancer treatment, a surgically created opening in the abdomen which allows urine to drain from the body
testicles	Two egg-shaped organs in the scrotum that make testosterone and sperm
testosterone	A male sex hormone
transurethral	Describes any operation that is performed through (trans) the urethra.
TRUS (Transrectal ultrasonography)	An examination that produces an image of the prostate by inserting a probe into the rectum to direct sound waves to the prostate
tumor grade	A classification that describes how aggressive a cancer appears to be
TUR (Transurethral resection)	A surgical procedure that is used to diagnose bladder cancer and/or to remove cancerous tissue from the bladder. During a TUR, a cystoscope is passed into the bladder through the urethra. A tool called a resectoscope is used to remove the excess or abnormal tissue for biopsy and to burn away any remaining cancer cells. Also called a TURBT
ureters	The tube that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder
urethra	The tube that carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body
urine	Fluid containing water and waste products. Urine is made by the

kidneys, stored in the bladder, leaves the body through the urethra

urostomy

The most common method to make a passageway for urine after a patient has undergone a cystectomy. A small section of the ileum (the third part of the small intestine before it becomes the large intestine) is used to join the ureters from the kidney to the skin of the abdominal wall to form a conduit for urine to pass (the stoma) into a storage bag attached to the skin of the abdomen. The remaining ileum is joined together to restore bowel function. Also called ileostomy or ileal conduit

vas deferens

A tube located between the epididymis and the urethra that stores sperm and carries it out of the scrotal sac

watchful waiting

Your health will be monitored closely, and you will be treated only if symptoms occur or worsen (Also known as “active surveillance”)