



TIP SHEET Kidney Cancer

What You Should Know

Your **kidneys** are a pair of organs located in your upper abdomen. As part of the urinary tract, the kidneys remove waste and extra water from the blood, which makes urine.

The kidneys also produce hormones and other substances that help regulate blood pressure and make red blood cells. Kidney cancer occurs when cells of the kidney grow and multiply abnormally.

Are You at Higher Risk?

People with the following factors may be more likely than others to develop kidney cancer:

- Smoking
- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- Family history of kidney cancer
- Certain genetic conditions, such as von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) syndrome

Symptoms to Tell Your Doctor

- ✓ Blood in your urine
- ✓ Pain in the side that doesn't go away
- ✓ A lump or mass in your side or abdomen
- ✓ Unexplained weight loss
- ✓ Fever
- ✓ Fatigue

Kidney cancer is more common in **men** than in women, and among **African American, Native American** and **Alaskan Native** populations.



QUIT SMOKING? YES, YOU CAN!

Call the **New York State Smokers' Quitline** at **1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487)** or visit www.nysmokefree.com for information, support and cessation aids.

These signs may also indicate a kidney **infection**, a **cyst**, or another health problem, but it's important to get an accurate diagnosis with either an ultrasound, CT or MRI scan.



Why Roswell Park?

Nationally recognized urology program. Roswell Park was named to Best Hospitals for 2017-18 by *U.S. News & World Report*, receiving special recognition for high performance in the area of urology.

Surgeons with high-volume experience. Roswell Park performs the most kidney cancer surgeries in WNY, and is one of the highest-volume centers for *robotic* kidney cancer surgery in the nation.

Access to the latest therapies. The newest treatments, available through clinical trials, are important options for many patients.

Treatment the Roswell Park Way

Our multidisciplinary approach means a team of urologic, medical and radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, psychologists, social workers and other cancer experts, work together to provide comprehensive and integrated care—all under one roof.

- **Robotic kidney surgery.** This minimally invasive approach results in less pain, a shorter hospital stay and speedier recovery.
- **Percutaneous ablation** offers a non-surgical treatment to patients with low risk tumors or those who cannot undergo surgery.
- **Latest immunotherapies.** These newest treatments help the body's immune system to attack cancer, and may produce complete remission in some patients. Roswell Park is the region's only facility to offer **high-dose Interleukin-2 (IL-2) therapy**, one of few curative options for metastatic kidney disease.

Active Surveillance for Kidney Cancer

This “watchful waiting” option allows some patients with small and slow-growing tumors to choose careful monitoring of their cancer, rather than undergo immediate treatment.



Although a person can live with one kidney, in patients with early-stage disease, removing only the tumor rather than the whole kidney (called a *partial nephrectomy*) preserves maximum kidney function for patients' later years. This is especially important for older patients and those with high blood pressure or diabetes. Roswell Park performs more partial nephrectomies than any other WNY facility.

Meet the Doctors

(above from left to right)

Urology

- 1) Khurshid Guru, MD
- 2) Eric Kauffman, MD
- 3) Qiang John Li, MD, PhD
- 4) James Mohler, MD
- 5) Thomas Schwaab, MD, PhD
- 6) Willie Underwood III, MD, MPH, MSci

Medical Oncology

- 7) Gurkamal Chatta, MD
- 8) Amy Early, MD, FACP
- 9) Marc Ernstoff, MD
- 10) Saby George, MD, FACP
- 11) Ellis Levine, MD, FACP

Radiation Oncology

- 12) Michael R. Kuettel, MD, PhD, MBA
- 13) Anurag Singh, MD

Nuclear Medicine

- 14) Dominick Lamonica, MD

Interventional Radiology

- 15) Michael Petroziello, MD

Pathology

- 16) Gissou Azabdaftari, MD
- 17) Norbert Sule, MD, PhD
- 18) Bo Xu, MD, PhD