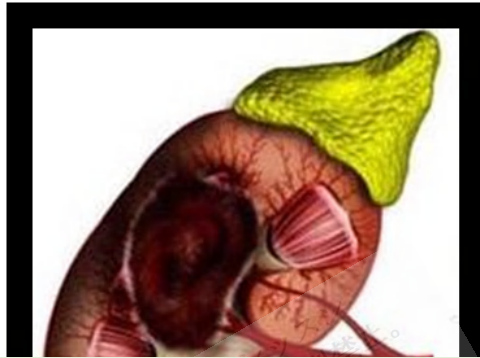


Hypernephroma

Hypernephroma (medical condition): Any cancer involving the kidneys. Wilms' tumor, transitional cell cancer and renal cell cancer are examples of types



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Kidney Cancer: Introduction

Kidney cancer is a relatively rare type of cancer that occurs when there is an uncontrolled growth of cancer cells that form a malignant tumor in the kidney. The most common form of kidney cancer is renal cell cancer.

The kidneys are a pair of bean shaped organs located in the abdomen. The function of the kidneys is to filter the blood of certain wastes creating urine. Normally, cells in the kidneys that are old or damaged will stop dividing and die before they can become cancerous. These cells are normally replaced by healthy young cells. Kidney cancer occurs when old or damaged cells continue to divide and multiply uncontrollably.

Kidney cancer is most treatable and curable if caught in the earliest stage of the disease. Untreated and/or advanced kidney cancer can spread from the kidney into surrounding tissues and into the lymph nodes, lungs, liver, bones and brain, where it can form another cancerous tumor. This is called metastasis.

People at risk for developing kidney cancer include those who smoke, are obese, or have certain rare genetic disorders, such as von Hippel-Lindau disease (VHL) or Birt Hogg Dube Syndrome (BHD). Other risk factors include having advanced kidney disease, a family member with kidney cancer, and/or exposure to certain toxic substances, such as asbestos, trichloroethylene, and cadmium. Kidney cancer is more common in men than in women.

Common symptoms of kidney cancer include hematuria (blood in the urine) and

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such as a bladder infection or kidney stones.

Kidney cancer can often be diagnosed with one or more imaging tests that create a picture of the kidney. Imaging tests can include CT scan, PET scan, ultrasound, intravenous pyelogram, ultrasound and/or MRI.

Rarely, a kidney biopsy may be necessary. A kidney biopsy involves removing a sample of cells from the kidney tumor with a very fine needle inserted through the skin. The sample of cells is then examined under a microscope for the presence of cancer cells to confirm a diagnosis.

Other diagnostic tests may be performed to rule-out or diagnose metastasis of kidney cancer to other parts of the body, such as the lungs, liver or brain.

The prognosis for people with kidney cancer varies depending on the stage of advancement of the cancer, the specific type of kidney cancer, and other factors. Treatment of kidney cancer may include surgery, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and/or chemotherapy. For more details about treatment, refer to treatment of kidney cancer.

A diagnosis of kidney cancer can be missed or delayed because some symptoms of kidney cancer are similar to symptoms of other conditions and for other reasons. For more information about other diseases, disorders and conditions that can mimic kidney cancer, refer to misdiagnosis of kidney cancer.

Kidney Cancer: Any cancer involving the kidneys. Wilms' tumor, transitional cell cancer and renal cell cancer are examples of types of kidney cancer. Smoking and

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during urination.

Other common symptoms include mass or lump in the abdomen and back pain or flank pain. Less common symptoms include weight loss, fatigue, anemia, and fever.

Complications of kidney cancer can create additional symptoms. Complications can include kidney failure and spread the tumor into major veins, such as the renal vein and the inferior vena cava. Complications also include blood clots and metastasis of the kidney cancer into surrounding tissues and into the lymph nodes and other organs, such as the lungs, liver, bones and brain

Symptoms of Kidney Cancer

The list of signs and symptoms mentioned in various sources for Kidney Cancer includes the 50 symptoms listed below:

No early symptoms
Blood in the urine - often intermittently
Kidney area lump
Abdominal swelling
No pain - there is not usually any kidney pain unless the tumor is very advanced

Less common symptoms:

Fatigue
Loss of appetite
Blood in your urine
A lump in your abdomen

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Pain in lower back	Excessive hair growth
Abdominal swelling	Constipation
Fever	Enlarged testicle
Weight loss	Lower back pain
Symptoms of transitional cell carcinoma:	Swollen ankles
Blood in urine	Swollen feet
Abdominal pain	Pain in the side
Hydronephrosis	Tiredness
Impaired kidney function	
Blood symptoms	
High blood calcium level	
Blood clots	
Congestive heart failure	

List of causes of Kidney Cancer

Following is a list of causes or underlying conditions that could possibly cause Kidney Cancer includes:

Smoking
Obesity
High blood pressure
Long term dialysis
Von Hippel Lindau syndrome
Exposure to asbestos and cadmium
Family history

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