



Seattle Cancer Care Alliance

Bladder Cancer Multispecialty Clinic

Your first appointment

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) and UW Medical Center (UWMC) provide comprehensive care to patients with bladder cancer. At SCCA, for the majority of bladder cancer patients we see, care begins with a team evaluation with a urologic oncologist, medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, pathologist, radiologist, and resident physician or fellow. All are UW Medicine doctors who specialize in genitourinary cancers.

The multispecialty appointment

If you have localized bladder cancer with muscle invasion, or metastatic disease, you will have your first appointment at the Bladder Cancer Multispecialty Clinic (BCMC) at UWMC, which takes place once a week for approximately four hours. During this time, your appointment may look something like this:

Hour one

You will meet with a resident doctor or fellow for a health history and physical exam.

Hour two

Your team of doctors will meet to discuss your case and develop a treatment plan specifically for you. During this hour, you will be free to visit the Patient Resource Center and other UWMC amenities.

Hours three and four

You will return to the clinic to meet with each doctor from your medical team individually to discuss the particulars of your treatment plan.

With our multispecialty approach, you will have the opportunity to discuss all aspects of your proposed treatment plan on the same day with each individual treating doctor. Though a long day, you will leave with all of your questions answered and a plan of care that is designed specifically for you and your needs.

Treatment options

The best treatment plans take your health status into account and may include upfront surgery, neoadjuvant chemotherapy and surgery, or bladder-sparing chemotherapy and radiation. At SCCA, your care will be coordinated across all specialties, so you won't have to worry about scheduling each treatment session.

Localized cancers

Treatment for localized and locally advanced bladder cancer has traditionally included surgery. Today, surgery is not always necessary and radiation therapy may also be a good option for you. Radiation therapy requires experience and expertise that is available at academic medical centers like SCCA and UWMC.

Metastatic cancers

Metastatic bladder cancers are often times treated by a medical oncologist. Among patients for whom

surgery is the best option, neoadjuvant chemotherapy (chemotherapy before surgery) provides better disease control and survival rates. The coordinated, integrated approach of the BCMC makes receiving multiple treatments as easy on you as possible.

Clinical studies – newest treatments

SCCA doctors lead and collaborate in many clinical studies for bladder cancer. As an SCCA patient, you will have access to the leading-edge therapies being tested in clinical studies and not available anywhere else in the region.

Care locations

Most bladder cancer patients begin their care at the BCMC located within the SCCA Prostate Oncology Center (in the Surgery Pavilion at UWMC). Depending on the treatment recommendations and your preference, you may be treated at the SCCA clinic on South Lake Union or at UWMC.

Making an appointment

The bladder cancer medical team is committed to providing exceptional care in collaboration with your primary and specialty care providers. As your team considers treatment recommendations, your primary doctors will be kept informed.

To make an appointment, you or your doctor may call **(206) 606-SCCA (7222)** or fax **(206) 606-1025**.