



CANCER AUSTRALIA

Renal and Urinary Tract Cancers

Definition

- Renal and urinary tract cancers include cancers of the kidney (C64) and bladder (C67). A third division titled “other” comprises rarer renal and urinary tract cancers, such those occurring in the urethra, paraurethral gland and renal pelvis.

Incidence and mortality

- In 2005, kidney and bladder were the ninth and tenth most common cancers in Australia.
- There were 2,367 new cases of bladder cancer reported in 2006, accounting for 2.3 per cent of all new cancer cases. The majority of these cases occurred in males (1,764 compared to 603 cases in females).
- In 2007, bladder cancer was responsible for 925 cancer deaths in Australia (2.3 per cent of all cancer deaths), with 630 male deaths and 295 female deaths.
- The lifetime risk of developing bladder cancer prior to the age of 75 is 1 in 152.
- There were 2,512 new cases of kidney cancer reported in 2006, accounting for 2.4 per cent of all new cancer cases. The majority of these cases occurred in males (1,625 compared to 887 cases in females).
- In 2007, kidney cancer was responsible for 855 deaths in Australia (2.1 per cent of all cancer deaths), with 539 male deaths and 316 female deaths.
- The lifetime risk of developing kidney cancer prior to the age of 75 is 1 in 109.

Trends

- The rate of incidence of kidney cancer has increased over the last 20 years, however mortality rates have decreased slightly. This trend is seen in both genders, although the incidence rate in males has increased far more than incidence in females.
- The incidence of bladder cancer has decreased dramatically over the last 20 years, largely attributable to the decline in males. Mortality rates have remained relatively stable in both genders.
- The incidence and mortality rates of bladder and kidney cancers increase with age. Incidence rates of bladder cancer begin to increase after 40 years, whereas kidney cancer can occur earlier (from 30 years of age).

Relative survival

Based on an evaluation of cancers diagnosed between 1998 and 2004:

- 62.3 per cent of males and 54.8 per cent of females affected by bladder cancer will be alive 5 years after their initial diagnosis.
- 65.6 per cent of males and 66 per cent of females affected by kidney cancer will be alive 5 years after their initial diagnosis.

Risk factors

- Many factors can increase the risk of developing bladder or kidney cancer. The major risk factor is smoking, however other contributors such as certain industrial chemicals, race, gender and age also influence the development of these cancers.

Sources: This factsheet draws on data published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, including in:

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010. Australia's Health 2010. Australia's health series no. 12. Cat. no. AUS 122. Canberra: AIHW.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Cancer Australia & Australasian Association of Cancer Registries 2008. Cancer survival and prevalence in Australia: cancers diagnosed from 1982 to 2004. Cancer series no. 42 Cat. no. CAN 38. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) & AACR (Australasian Association of Cancer Registries) 2008. Cancer in Australia: an overview, 2008. Cancer series no. 46. Cat. no. CAN 42. Canberra: AIHW.
- www.aihw.gov.au/cancer/data/acim_books (viewed 16/11/2010) - 2006 incidence and 2007 mortality data.

The figures quoted relate to cancers C64 and C67 as classified under the International Classification of Diseases (ICD – 10).

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ABN 21075951918

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