# Patient Input Requested to Help Develop a U.K. Clinical Trial for Low Risk, Recurrent Bladder Cancer

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Stage Ta, grade 1, single papillary tumor, <3cm; Papillary neoplasm of low malignant potential (PNLMP)

Experts around the world agree that a large subset of bladder tumors carry virtually no risk of progression, although recurrence is very common. When the diagnosis is bladder cancer, regular follow-up is recommended for life. In case of low-risk bladder cancer, repeated cystoscopies and surgical removal can do more harm than good over the long-term. Many people dealing with bladder cancer are elderly, with co-morbidities that may make anesthesia difficult or even dangerous. Over-treatment is a great concern for this population, bringing with it short and long-term risks and complications that could be avoided with less aggressive approaches. Even cystoscopy has its risks, such as infection and long term wear and tear that can often lead to incontinence after years of follow-up.

Numerous studies have reported that these low-risk recurrences sometimes disappear with expectant treatment, also known as ‘watchful waiting.’ Other studies have shown that using a course of intravesical chemo –known as ‘chemo-resection’ - is effective at eradicating recurrences and may be better in many cases than subjecting patients to the risks of repeated surgeries under anesthesia.

Click here to start the survey.

References

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Conservative management of low risk superficial bladder tumors: “ Due to the high rate of recurrence, patients experience the potential risks and morbidity of frequent surgical intervention, despite the often slow growth rate and low risk of progression of such tumors. Recent experiences have suggested that some patients with low grade superficial tumors may be treated expectantly. “ J Urol. 2008 Jan;179(1):87-90; discussion 90. Epub 2007 Nov 12. Pruthi RS, Baldwin N, Bhalani V, Wallen EM.Division of Urologic Surgery, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599, USA PubMed: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17997444

Expectant treatment of small, recurrent, low-grade, noninvasive tumors of the urinary bladder - "As long as the tumors are low grade, the risk of invasion or metastasis is zero. Every small papillary tumor does not require removal when observed. Some of these tumors grow very slowly and, with proper reassurance, can be safely monitored. " Jan-Feb.2006 Mark Soloway; Miami; Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations Volume 24, Issue 1 PubMed

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Chemoresection for superficial bladder cancer  “Chemical resection of tumors can be cheaper and more comfortable for the patient than TUR, avoiding hospitalization, anesthesia and surgery. It can prolong the disease free interval. Low risk tumors are often treated too aggressively, routine TUR for recurrences is riskier than appreciated. The risk of leaving a marker lesion has been shown to be 0% for low risk, 2% for intermediate risk, and 7%for high risk.”” 2003, conference presentation, W.Oosterlinck, MD, PhD, Ghent University Hospital, Belgium; Member of EORTC, EUA http://blcwebcafe.org/content/view/148/159/lang,english/#chemoresection

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