



## **FACTS ABOUT BLADDER CANCER**

- In 2009, it is estimated that almost 71,000 new cases of bladder cancer will be diagnosed and over 14,000 people will die from the disease. Bladder Cancer is the 5<sup>th</sup> most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States – 4<sup>th</sup> among men (after prostate, lung, and colon) and 11<sup>th</sup> among women.
- There are over 500,000 bladder cancer survivors in the United States.
- As with most cancers, early detection of bladder cancer is critical to long term survival.
- While men get bladder cancer more often than women, women are more likely to present with advanced tumors than men and have a worse prognosis at almost every stage of the disease.
- The most common symptom of bladder cancer is blood in the urine, which is also a common symptom of urinary tract infection.
- The cause of bladder cancer is not yet known, but there are certain risk factors that can lead to the disease. These are:

### Smoking

Smoking is the greatest risk factor. Smokers get bladder cancer twice as often as people who do not smoke.

### Chemical Exposure

Some chemicals used in the making of dye have been linked to bladder cancer. People who work with chemicals called aromatic amines may have a higher risk. These chemicals are used in making rubber, leather, printing materials, textiles, and paint products.

- Bladder cancer has a recurrence rate of 50-80% and because it requires life-long surveillance, it is the most expensive cancer to treat on a per patient basis. It is estimated that approximately **\$2.9 billion** is spent in the United States each year on the treatment of bladder cancer.

For more information, please contact:

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