

Introduction: Key issues in bladder cancer management

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It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce you to the first bladder cancer supplement of the *CUAJ*.

The complete supplement is published online and is now available at www.cuaj.ca and through PubMed. In this print issue of *CUAJ*, we have printed a listing of the articles presented in the supplement (on page 440) and the article abstracts (on page 441).

As editor of this supplement, I am excited to present you with up-to-date issues in bladder cancer written by Canadian and international physicians and scientists. The supplement highlights key aspects of bladder cancer from the management of T1G3 tumours and BCG failures to the management of advanced cancers, including the role of lymphadenectomy, urethrectomy, perioperative chemotherapy and metastasectomy. The supplement also addresses the future prospects toward the pathways of personalized medicine. In addition, the authors review the impact of nonurothelial histology, as well as risk-adapted and treatment-adapted surveillance strategies. Controversial issues are debated: Is there a niche for prostate-sparing cystectomy? Is bladder cancer screening ready for prime time? Does chemoprevention have a place in bladder cancer? These are just a few questions that the supplement attempts to answer.

I congratulate all the authors who have contributed to this supplement and have worked hard on this endeavour. I hope this final product complements the reader's needs and expectations.

On a global note, the actual prevalence of bladder cancer is 10 times its incidence creating a major economic burden on health care systems.¹ As measured on the basis of cumulative per-patient cost, from diagnosis until death, bladder cancer is the most expensive cancer to treat, accounting for almost \$3.7 billion (2001 values) of direct costs in the United States. Unfortunately, the lack of public awareness, patient advocacy, disproportionate research funding and decreasing research activity have limited the progress in bladder cancer management.² We need to be more proactive with this disease.

As one of the founding members of the Canadian Bladder Cancer Network (CBCAN), I would like to take this opportunity to introduce this one-of-a-kind organization. The

Canadian Bladder Cancer Network is a nonprofit national organization whose mission is to (1) help bladder cancer patients and their support teams in day-to-day issues with the disease; (2) raise awareness of bladder cancer among the general public and medical community; and (3) advocate for allocation of government and private funds directed toward the diagnosis, treatment and medical research needed to eliminate bladder cancer.

For more information, I encourage you to visit our website at www.cbcan.org. The site is open to physicians and patients.

Editor, Bladder Cancer Supplement, *Canadian Urological Association Journal*

References

1. Botteman, MF, Pashos CL, Redaelli A, et al. The health economics of bladder cancer: a comprehensive review of the published literature. *Pharmacoeconomics* 2003;21:1315.
2. Lotan Y, Kamat AM, Porter MP, et al. Key concerns about the current state of bladder cancer: a position paper from the Bladder Cancer Think Tank, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, and the Society of Urologic Oncology. *Cancer* 2009;115:4096.