# **Recent Advances in Management of Invasive Bladder Cancer**

### Essay

Submitted For Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree in Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine

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# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرّحمَٰنِ الرّحيمِ

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I would like to dedicate this Essay

to my Father, to my Mother to my Brothers and my only Sister

to them I will never find adequate words to express my gratitude.

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#### List of Abbreviations

**ABC** : Advanced Bladder cancer meta-analysis collaboration

**AJCC** : American Joint Committee on Cancer

**ATP** : Adenosine triphosphate

BC : Bladder cancer BT : Brachytherapy

**CALGB**: Current Cancer and Leukemia Group B

CBC : Complete blood count CIS : Carcinoma in situ

cIScA : Cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, and adriamycine

**CM** : Cyclophosmamide - methotrexate

**CMV** : Cyclophosmamide - methotrexate – vincrstine

CT : Computed tomography
CTV : Clinical Target Volume

EAU : European Association of UrologyEBrT : External beam radiation therapy

ECOG : Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group EGFR : Epidermal growth factor receptor

**EorTc** : European Organization for research and Treatment of cancer

ESMO : European Society for Medical Oncology FAcT : Functional Assessment of cancer Therapy

**FDG-**PET : Fluorodeoxyglucose -positron emission tomography

**FISH** : Florescence in suit hybridization

**GC** : Gemcitabine, Cisplatin

**Gy** : Gray

**hAL** : Hexaminolaevulinate

**hrQoL** : Health-related quality of life

**IArc** : International Agency for research on cancer

IHC : ImmunohistochemistrymAbs : Monoclonal antibodies

MIBC : Muscle-invasive bladder cancerMRI : Magnetic resonance imaging

### List of Abbreviations (Cont...)

MVA(E)c : Methotrexate-vincrstine- adriamycin (epirubicin) -cyclophosmamide

**NCCN**: National Comprehensive Cancer Network

**NcI** : National cancer Institute

NmIBc : Non-musle invasive bladder cancer

**OAR** : Organ at risk

**PAhs** : Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

**PFS** : Progression free survival

Ps : Performance status PTV : Planning target volume

**PUNLMP**: Papillary urothelial neoplasms of low malignant potential

**RALC**: Robotic-assisted laparoscopic cystectomy

Rb : Retinoblastoma generP : Radical prostatectomyRTKs : Receptor tyrosin e kinases

**RTOG** : Radiation Therapy Oncology Group

**SCCs** : Squamous cell carcinomas

**SEER** : Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results

**SES** : Socioeconomic status

**SWOG** : Southwest Oncology Group **TCC** : Transitional cell carcinoma

**TKI** : Tyrosine receptor kinase inhibitors

TNM : Tumor,node,metastasis
TUR : Transureasal resction

**TURBT**: Transurethral resection of bladder tumor

URCa : Urothelial carcinomaUS : Ultrasonography

**VEGF** : Vascular endothelial growth factor

**WHO** : World Health Organization

3-D : three - Dimensional4-ABP : 4-aminobiphenyl5-ALA : 5-aminolevulinic acid

**5-FU** : 5-fluorouracil

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### Introduction

Pladder cancer is a common urologic cancer. In 2010, the urinary bladder was the fourth most common site of new cancer cases in the United States, with an estimated 70,530 new cases and 14,680 deaths More than 60,000 new cases of bladder cancer are diagnosed each year in united state. It is more common in men, with a male: female ratio of 4:1 (*Jemal et al.*, 2010).

Age appears to increase the risk; the median age upon presentation with bladder cancer is 72 years for men and 74 years for woman (*Jacobs et al.*, 2010).

In developed countries, 90% of bladder cancers are Transitional cell carcinoma (TCC). In developing countries—particularly in the Middle East and Africa—the majority of bladder cancers are squamous cell carcinomas (SCCs), and most of these cancers are secondary to Schistosoma haematobium infection (*Steinberg*, 2013).

In Africa, the highest incidence of SCC has been seen in schistosomal-endemic areas, notably Sudan and Egypt. In recent years, a few studies from Egypt have shown a reversal of this trend due to the better control of schistosomiasis in the region, whereas in other parts of Africa the association is unchanged (*Heyns et al.*, 2008). Increased smoking incidence is

believed to have contributed to the shift toward TCC in Egypt, which has a stronger smoking association (*Steinberg*, 2013).

A number of etiological factor are associated with the development of bladder cancer such as chronic urinary infection, pelvic Radiation, chemotherapy with cyclophosamide and occupational exposure to aromatic amines. However Cigarette smoking is the largest risk factor for bladder cancer (*Jacobs et al.*, 2010).

Clinically, Hematuria is the hallmark sign of bladder cancer, occurring in 85% of patients at presentation. Increased urinary frequency and dysuria may also be presenting symptom. More advanced disease may present with pelvic pain and all the symptoms of urinary obstruction (*Stenzl et al., 2010*).

The American Joint Committee on Cancer TNM (primary tumor, regional lymph nodes, and distant metastasis) Staging System is used for staging bladder cancer. Correct staging can estimate the prognosis and risk of recurrence and is used to determine treatment strategies. Under staging, a common problem may result in incorrect treatment decisions (*Kulkarni et al.*, 2010). There is a 10% chance that a high-grade Ta or T1 lesion is really muscle-invasive disease (*Babjuk et al.*, 2010).

Muscle-invasive bladder cancer (clinical stage cT2-cT4a) is an aggressive epithelial tumor with a high rate of early

systemic dissemination and 5-year survival depending principally on pathologic stage and nodal status. Although only one-third of the newly diagnosed bladder cancers are advanced at presentation, another 15–30% of high-grade superficial tumors progress to muscle-invasive tumors, usually within 5 yr (*Fabio and Cora*, 2008).

The gold standard for diagnosis is cystoscopy. Intraurethral lidocaine is used to perform this procedure, in which abnormal tissue is resected. This resection is called transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TURBT) (Babjuk et al., 2010). Urinary cytology is an important adjunct to cystoscopy and is helpful for identifying high-grade tumors, such as carcinoma in situ (CIS). The presence of exfoliated cancerous cells can indicate cancer anywhere along the urinary tract, and the absence of cancer cells does not rule out the presence of a low-grade lesion (Sexton et al., 2010).

CT and MRI may be used to determine the stage of bladder cancer; however, they are unable to accurately detect early metastatic disease. Ultrasonography is being used more frequently and is advantageous because it does not require contrast agent (*Babjuk et al.*, 2010). Another imaging modality is IV urography. If invasive disease is suspected, diagnostic imaging should be done prior to TURBT because inflammation from TURBT can be impossible to distinguish from tumor growth in the perivesical fat (*Suzanne et al.*, 2011).

Approximately one-third of patients diagnosed with muscle-invasive bladder cancer have metastatic disease at the time that the first tumor is treated (*Stenzl et al., 2010*). It is important to determine the presence of distant metastasis prior to treatment selection. The most common sites of metastasis are the lungs, bones, and liver (*Jacobs et al., 2010*).

TURBT performed during cystoscopy is a treatment as well as diagnostic tool. All visible lesions should be removed, along with muscle tissue, to ensure complete resection and proper staging (*Pharmd et al.*, 2011). For localized muscle-invasive disease, radical cystectomy is the standard treatment. Although it is desirable to preserve the bladder, delaying radical cystectomy is thought to increase the risk of lymph node metastasis by 26% (*Mslis et al.*, 2011).

Neoadjuvant therapy administering chemotherapy prior to radical cystectomy can help determine the sensitivity of the carcinoma to the selected chemotherapeutic agents. Other advantages include better patient tolerability to chemotherapy prior to radical cystectomy and delivery of therapy at the earliest time, when occurrence of micrometastatic disease is expected to be low. Among the disadvantages associated with the use of neoadjuvant are staging errors and overtreatment (*Suzanne et al.*, 2010). Chemotherapy should include a cisplatin-containing regimen, either MVAC (methotrexate, vinblastine, doxorubicin, and cisplatin) or GC (gemcitabine and cisplatin). Neither

combination has been shown to be superior to the other; However, GC is less toxic (*Sonpavde et al.*, *2010*).

The use of adjuvant chemotherapy postoperatively has not been shown to have a benefit. Additionally, patients often cannot tolerate systemic chemotherapy after radical cystectomy. The European Association of Urology (EAU) guidelines recommend adjuvant therapy for clinical trials, but not for routine use (*Cowan et al., 2010*).

Bladder -preserving approaches are reasonable alternatives to cystectomy for patients who are medically unfit for surgery and those seeking an alternative (*National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)*, 2013).

A trimodality treatment approach for muscle-invasive bladder cancer consists of transureasal resction (TUR) for the primary tumor followed by a combination of local radiation therapy and systemic chemotherapy (*Weiss et al.*, 2006).

Radiation alone is not considered standard treatment for patients with an invasive bladder tumor. Because the initial complete response and long-term bladder preservation rates are higher with chemotherapy combined with radiotherapy (*Gospodarowicz*, 2000).

Antiangiogenic therapy is under investigation as secondline therapy (*Bellmunt et al., 2010*). Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is the most important stimulator of