

Diagnosing Kidney Cancer - A Quick Guide



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This is a brief summary of the information on 'Diagnosing kidney cancer' from CancerHelp UK. You will find more detailed information on the website.

In this information there are sections on

- Tests for kidney cancer
- Further tests for kidney cancer
- After the tests
- Questions for your doctor

Tests for kidney cancer

Usually, you begin by seeing your family doctor who will ask you about your general health and examine you. Your GP will ask you to give a urine sample. He or she will test for small amounts of blood (haematuria) which can be a sign of kidney cancer. The doctor may also take some blood to do other tests. Your doctor should refer you to see a specialist at the hospital if you have blood in your urine. It is important that you tell the doctor if anyone else in your family has had kidney cancer.

At the hospital

The specialist will begin by asking you about your medical history and symptoms. You will have more urine and blood tests. The

specialist will look at your kidneys using either an ultrasound scan, a test called an intravenous pyelogram (IVP) or a CT urogram.

If you have blood in your urine, you will probably need to have a cystoscopy so that the doctor can check inside your bladder. The doctor will use a cystoscope, which is a long, thin, flexible tube that is put into your urethra and up into the bladder. You can have a cystoscopy under local or general anaesthetic.

Further tests for kidney cancer

If your tests show you have kidney cancer, you may have to have further tests to see if the cancer has spread. And to decide on the best treatment.

The tests you might have include

- CT scan
- MRI scan
- Bone scan
- Angiogram or venogram to look at the blood vessels in and around your kidneys
- Chest X-ray



After the tests

You will be asked to come back to the hospital when your test results have come through. This is bound to take a little time, even if only a few days. You may feel very anxious during this time. It may help to talk to a close friend or relative about how you are feeling. Or you may want to contact a cancer support group to talk to someone who has been through a similar experience.

Questions for your doctor about kidney cancer tests

- What tests are you going to do?
- What are you looking for?
- Will the tests show whether I have cancer?
- Will the tests show if the cancer has spread?
- Will you know what treatment I need when you have the results?
- Are any of the tests painful?
- Do any of the tests have after effects?
- Can I have my tests as an out patient?
- Can I bring someone with me when I have the tests?
- How long will the results take?
- Who will give me the test results?

More information

For more information about kidney cancer, visit our website <http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org>

You will find a wide range of detailed, up to date information for people affected by cancer, including a clinical trials database that you can search for trials in the UK. You can view or print the information in a larger size if you need to.

For answers to your questions about cancer call our Cancer Information Nurses on **0808 800 4040**
9am till 5pm Monday to Friday

Adapted from Cancer Research UK's Patient Information Website CancerHelp UK in July 2010. CancerHelp UK is not designed to provide medical advice or professional services and is intended to be for educational use only. The information provided through CancerHelp UK and our nurse team is not a substitute for professional care and should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease. If you have, or suspect you may have, a health problem you should consult your doctor.
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