

Smoking linked with worse urothelial cancer prognosis in patients, especially women

March 14 2013

Smoking significantly increases individuals' risk of developing serious forms of urothelial carcinoma and a higher likelihood of dying from the disease, particularly for women. That is the conclusion of a recent study published in *BJU International*. While the biological mechanisms underlying this gender difference are unknown, the findings indicate that clinicians and society in general should focus on smoking prevention and cessation to safeguard against deadly cancers of the bladder, ureters, and renal pelvis, especially in females.

To evaluate the gender-specific effects of smoking habits and cumulative smoking exposure on the health of patients with urothelial carcinoma, investigators led by Shahrokh Shariat, MD, of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University and New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, studied 864 patients (553 men and 311 women) from five international institutions who underwent surgery to treat urothelial carcinoma.

Cancer was more likely to recur in female current smokers than in male current smokers. In heavy long-term smokers, women were 70 percent more likely to experience a cancer recurrence and twice as likely to die from cancer than men. In female patients only, smoking quantity, duration, and cumulative exposure were linked with [cancer recurrence](#) and death. For both men and women, those who stopped smoking for more than 10 years saw their risk of dying from cancer revert to that of non-smokers.

"The biological and clinical effect of [smoking](#) seems to be different in females than in males. More effort needs to be spent on the science of how normal human biology differs between men and women and how the diagnosis and treatment of urothelial carcinoma differs as a function of gender," said Dr. Shariat. "Also, gender-specific [smoking prevention](#) and cessation can have a major health care impact in urothelial carcinoma."

More information: "Gender-specific effect of smoking on upper tract urothelial carcinoma outcomes." Michael Rink, Evangelos Xylinas, Quoc-Dien Trinh, Yair Lotan, Vitaly Margulis, Jay D. Raman, Margit Fisch, Richard K. Lee, Felix K. Chun, Joul Abdennabi, Christian Seitz, Armin Pycha, Alexandre R. Zlotta, Pierre I. Karakiewicz, Marko Babjuk, Douglas S. Scherr, and Shahrokh F. Shariat for the Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma Collaboration (UTUCC). BJU International; March 2013 ([DOI: 10.1111/bju.12014](https://doi.org/10.1111/bju.12014)).

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Smoking linked with worse urothelial cancer prognosis in patients, especially women (2013, March 14) retrieved 24 January 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-03-linked-worse-urothelial-cancer-prognosis.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
