

# Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor (TURBT)

SUNA Postoperative Care Task Force

## Overview

Transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TURBT) is a surgical procedure to remove and biopsy bladder tumors. A biopsy is a procedure in which a doctor takes a small tissue sample from the area in the bladder where cancer may exist. During the biopsy procedure, the doctor also will try to remove all of the cancer. This is called resectioning. The entire procedure for bladder tumor biopsy and resection is known as transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TURBT).

You may have general anesthesia for this procedure, which means you will be asleep for it. Some providers might use regional (or spinal) anesthesia, which means you will be awake. However, you will not feel any pain. The results (pathology) of the biopsy and resection will guide future treatments.

## Indications

Suspected or known bladder cancer.

## Possible Risks with This Surgery

Bladder tumor biopsy and resection is a very safe procedure. However, like any surgery, it has some risks. These include:

- Risks related to anesthesia.
- Urinary tract infections.
- Excessive or prolonged bleeding.
- Perforation (a hole) in the bladder.

## What to Expect Before Surgery

- You may need to have lab tests, X-rays, and electrocardiograms (EKGs) completed before your surgery, if ordered by your surgeon.
- You may be asked to attend a preoperative clinic visit before the procedure for an exam and review of test results.
- If you start any new medications before your surgery, please contact the urology office as soon as possible.

## What to Expect After Surgery

- Bleeding is common after surgery. You might have bright red urine. Make sure you drink plenty of liquids. Water is best.
- You may have a catheter left in place. Your surgeon will direct you on when it can be removed.
- It is normal to experience the following:
  - Leakage.
  - Painful, burning urination.
  - Frequent urination.
  - Bladder spasms.
  - Blood and clots in the urine for several weeks.

## Complications and Call the Clinic if You Experience:

- Inability to pass urine.
- Large blood clots in your urine (the size of a quarter or larger).
- Fever greater than 101 degrees F.
- Chills.
- Nausea and vomiting.

**\*\*If you are unable to reach the office and are in need of immediate assistance, please proceed to the nearest Emergency Room.**

## Resources

- Lenis, A.T., Lec, P.M., & Chamie, K. (2020). Bladder cancer. *JAMA*, 324(19), 1980. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.17598>
- National Cancer Institute. (n.d.). *Bladder cancer treatment (PDQ®) - Patient version*. <https://www.cancer.gov/types/bladder/patient/bladder-treatment-pdq>
- Urology Care Foundation. (n.d.). *What to know about bladder cancer*. <https://www.urologyhealth.org/healthy-living/care-blog/what-to-know-about-bladder-cancer>

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*We hope you and all your family members may benefit from these handouts.*

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