

# UPPER TRACT UROTHELIAL CANCER

(UTUC) is a rare and difficult-to-treat urothelial cancer



Upper tract urothelial cancer (UTUC) is a rare cancer occurring in the **lining of the kidneys or ureters**<sup>1</sup>



Urothelial cancer is the ninth most common cancer globally and **eighth most lethal neoplasm in men in the U.S.**<sup>2</sup>



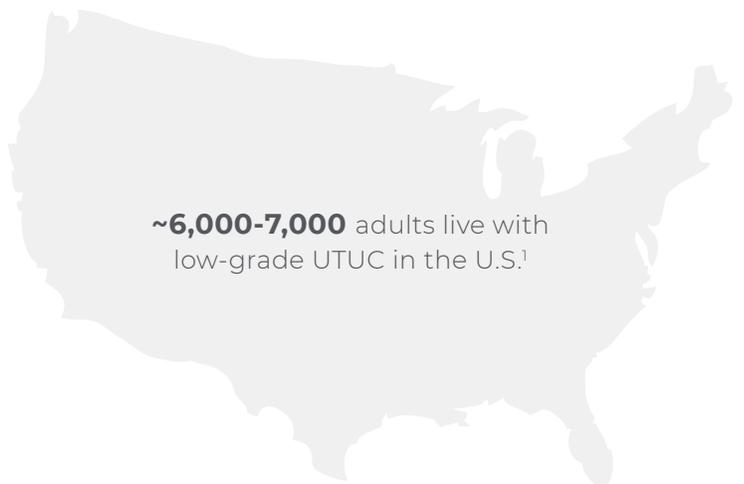
UTUC is most commonly diagnosed in people over 70 years old, and **~75% of the patient population is men**<sup>3</sup>

## Low-grade UTUC



The grade (low or high) of UTUC refers to **how aggressive the cancer cells are** and how likely they are to spread.

**Low-grade UTUC** is usually not as aggressive and slower to spread compared to **high-grade UTUC**, but it is still a serious condition that can worsen if left untreated.



## Challenges in Treating UTUC<sup>1</sup>

- The anatomy of the upper urinary tract **poses challenges** in treating UTUC.
- Due to age and comorbidities, this patient population often faces a high rate of **recurrence and relapse**.
- Low-grade UTUC treatment approaches:
  - **Minor surgery**, including endoscopic resection or endoscopic management
  - **Wait and watch** to see if the tumor returns after removal via minor surgery or biopsy
  - **Radical nephroureterectomy (RNU)**, a radical surgery that removes the entire kidney and ureter

### Common Comorbidities<sup>4,5</sup>

- **Cardiac disease**
- **Hypertension**
- **Diabetes**
- **Hyperlipidemia**
- **Pulmonary Disease**

**RNU is not appropriate for all patients**



~50% of patients undergoing RNU already advanced to stage  $\geq 3$  chronic kidney disease (CKD)<sup>4,6</sup>



RNU has been proven to accelerate the process of declining kidney function and progression to CKD<sup>6,7</sup>



Comorbidities may further complicate declining renal function, and may hinder patient recovery

Even low-grade UTUC is often treated with RNU, which has significant limitations and can be largely burdensome.

What if patients with low-grade UTUC could be treated without risking surgical complications?

**Kidney-sparing procedures could be the future of low-grade UTUC management.**

## References

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