

Bladder Cancer Imaging



A recent article published online in BMC Medicine reviews advances in imaging for bladder cancer. CT and MRI are standard modalities currently and are central to staging. The development of functional imaging such as dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI, diffusion-weighted MRI and positron emission tomography (PET)-CT allows characterisation of tumour physiology and potential genotypic activity, to help stratify and inform future patient management. They open up the possibility of tumour mapping and individualised treatment solutions, permitting early identification of response and allowing timely change in treatment. Further validation of these methods is required however, and at present they are used in conjunction with, rather than as an alternative to, conventional imaging techniques.

The authors include an anticipated clinical pathway for staging of confirmed muscle invasive bladder cancer.

Reference: Hafeez S, Huddart R. Advances in bladder cancer imaging. BMC Medicine 2013, 11: 104. doi: 10.1186/1741-7015-11-104.
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1741-7015-11-104.pdf>

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