

Types of kidney cancer

Cancer happens when cells inside the body grow abnormally and out of control, forming a tumor. Cancer that starts in the kidney is known as kidney or renal cancer.

Understanding what kind of kidney cancer you have helps you get the best treatment possible. Talk to your doctor if you are not sure what type of kidney cancer you have.



Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC):

Types of RCC	How common is it?	What do I need to know?
Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma (ccRCC)	This is the most common type of kidney cancer. About 8 out of 10 kidney cancers are ccRCC.	- When doctors look at cells from ccRCC tumors under a microscope, they look like clear bubbles. - Treatment often includes surgery to remove the tumor or the entire kidney. - There may be additional treatments after surgery to make sure all the cancer cells are gone.
Non-Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma (nccRCC)	These kinds of kidney cancers are less common. About 2 out of 10 kidney cancers are nccRCC.	- Cells from nccRCC tumors do not look like clear bubbles under a microscope the way ccRCC cells do. There are several types of nccRCC, and the way the cells look depends on what type it is. - Treatment often includes surgery to remove the tumor or the entire kidney. - There may be additional treatments after surgery to make sure all the cancer cells are gone.



There are other, less common types of renal cell carcinomas that do not fall into these categories.

Other types of kidney cancers:

Types of kidney cancer	How common is it?	What do I need to know?
Wilms Tumor (nephroblastoma)	This is the most common type of childhood kidney cancer. About 9 out of 10 kidney cancers in children are Wilms Tumor.	There are 2 types of Wilms tumors. Doctors look at tumor cells under a microscope to tell them apart: 1 type is more common and easier to treat, called favorable histology. - The other type is less common and harder to treat, called unfavorable or anaplastic histology.

Other types of kidney cancers (continued)

Types of kidney cancer	How common is it?	What do I need to know?
Transitional Cell Carcinoma (urothelial carcinomas)	About 6 to 7 out of 100 kidney cancers are transitional cell carcinomas.	• Transitional cell carcinomas can form in the centers of the kidneys, the tubes that connect the kidneys to the bladder (ureter) and the bladder. • Treatment depends on where the cancer is, and may include surgery to remove the tumor and additional treatments to make sure all the cancer cells are gone.
Renal Sarcoma	This type of kidney cancer is rare. About 1 out of 100 kidney cancers are renal sarcoma.	• Renal sarcomas start in the blood vessels or connective tissue inside the kidneys. Connective tissue helps support the structure of the kidneys. • Treatment usually includes surgery to remove the tumor, with additional treatments to make sure all the cancer cells are gone.

Kidney Cancer and Chronic Kidney Disease: What's the Connection?



If you have received a kidney transplant, you have a higher risk (chance) of kidney cancer. Having kidney cancer can give you a higher risk of chronic kidney disease.

How does a kidney transplant raise my risk of kidney cancer?

After receiving a kidney transplant, you will take immunosuppressant medicines to keep your body from rejecting the transplanted kidney. These medicines slow down your immune system, which helps fight off viruses and infections.

This can:

- Make it harder for your body to fight off cancer cells.
- Make you more likely to get sick or have an infection that can cause cancer in the future.

How do cancer treatments raise my risk of chronic kidney disease?

Some medicines used to treat cancers can harm the kidneys. Over time, this can cause kidney damage and may lead to kidney problems such as acute kidney injury or chronic kidney disease.



Talk to your doctor about ways you can take care of yourself and manage your risks.



For more information, visit [kidneyfund.org/kidney-cancer](https://www.kidneyfund.org/kidney-cancer)

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