What is renal cell carcinoma (RCC)?

Renal cell carcinoma is the most common type of kidney cancer in the U.S.¹

RCC is a type of kidney cancer that develops in the lining of the renal tubules, which filter the blood and produce urine. Although RCC usually grows as a single tumor within a kidney, there may also be two or more tumors in one or both kidneys. There are various types of RCC, the most common of which include clear cell, papillary and chromophobe.¹²

It is estimated that 79,000 new cases of kidney cancer will be reported in the United States in 2022.

RCC represents 90% of all kidney cancers.¹

Some patients with RCC will have or develop advanced disease

Both unresectable and metastatic RCC are considered advanced RCC.

- Tumors in the kidney that cannot be surgically removed are unresectable.
- Disease that spreads beyond the kidney is called metastatic renal cell carcinoma.⁴

The prognosis for patients with advanced RCC is poor, with a 5-year survival rate of 15%.³

Early kidney cancers do not usually cause any signs or symptoms, but as the tumor grows, some possible signs and symptoms of kidney cancer include:¹

- Blood in the urine
- Fatigue
- Low back pain on one side not caused by injury
- A mass on the side or lower back
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss not caused by dieting

These are not all the possible symptoms of kidney cancer and may also be indicative of other conditions. Consult with a healthcare provider about any symptoms of concern.

The following may increase the risk of developing kidney cancer:⁶

- Gender: Males are more likely to be diagnosed than females
- Age: While kidney cancer can occur at any age, most cases are diagnosed in people between 60 and 70 years old
- Family history: Having a first-degree relative (parent, brother, sister, child) with kidney cancer
- Lifestyle factors: Smoking, obesity, and hypertension

This list does not detail all possible risk factors for developing kidney cancer.

References: