

available at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)  
journal homepage: [www.europeanurology.com](http://www.europeanurology.com)



## Editorial

Christian G. Stief\*

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Klinikum der Universität, Marchioninistr. 15, 81377 München, Germany

Bladder cancer is an underestimated malignancy—even in urology, where it tends to be overshadowed by prostate diseases. However, bladder cancer has a high prevalence (1 in 28 lifetime risk), a poor prognosis if diagnosed late or treated inadequately, and a high socioeconomic cost. This supplement of *European Urology* aims to focus attention on bladder cancer, particularly the diagnosis and treatment of superficial bladder tumours.

Key facts on the epidemiology and natural history of bladder cancer are given by Grasso [1]. Then Oosterlinck et al [2] discuss the prognostic factors that affect the management of non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer. The next three papers highlight the latest developments in transurethral resection of the bladder (TURB); Thomas et al [3] look in depth at new ways of excising lesions, while Jichlinski et al [4] and Zaak et al [5] explain how the addition of photodynamic diagnosis using hexaminolevulinat (Hexvix) to conventional TURB results in improved tumour resection, a reduced recurrence rate, and increased detection of carcinoma in situ, compared to TURB guided by white-light cystoscopy alone. The data discussed show that addition of photodynamic diagnosis to conventional TURB not only improves outcomes, and, hence, quality of life, for individual patients, but also results in overall cost savings through a reduced rate of follow-up cystoscopy and resection. In the final paper, Urdaneta et al [6]

critically assess the options of intravesical chemotherapy and immunotherapy in the treatment of bladder cancer.

### Conflicts of interest

Prof. Stief has received honoraria from GE Health-care for presenting.

### References

- [1] Grasso M. Bladder cancer: a major public health issue. *Eur Urol Suppl* 2008;7:510–5.
- [2] Oosterlinck W, Witjes W, Sylvester R. Diagnostic and prognostic factors in non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer and their influence on treatment and outcomes. *Eur Urol Suppl* 2008;7:516–23.
- [3] Thomas K, O'Brien T. Improving transurethral resection of bladder tumour: the gold standard for diagnosis and treatment of bladder tumours. *Eur Urol Suppl* 2008;7:524–8.
- [4] Jichlinski P, Jacqmin D. Photodynamic diagnosis in non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer. *Eur Urol Suppl* 2008;7:529–35.
- [5] Zaak D, Wieland WF, Stief CG, Burger M. Routine use of photodynamic diagnosis of bladder cancer: practical and economic issues. *Eur Urol Suppl* 2008;7:536–41.
- [6] Urdaneta G, Olsona E, Palou J. Intravesical chemotherapy and BCG for the treatment of bladder cancer: evidence and opinion. *Eur Urol Suppl* 2008;7:542–7.

\* Tel. +89 7095 2971; Fax: +89 7095 5971.

E-mail address: [christian.stief@med.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:christian.stief@med.uni-muenchen.de).