

Transurethral laser ablation for recurrent non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer

Information for the public

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There are no major safety concerns with this procedure, but there is not much good evidence about how well it works for recurrent non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer. This procedure can be used but only when patients are having regular checks to see how well it is working or if it has caused problems. This is because of the concerns about its long-term effects.

Non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer consists of small growths present only in the lining of the bladder. The cancer has not grown into the deeper muscle layer. In this procedure, a tube with a camera (cystoscope) is inserted into the bladder through the tube that carries urine out of the body from the bladder (urethra). A laser within the cystoscope is then used to destroy the cancer cells.

The [NHS website](#) may be a good place to find out more. NICE's information on [interventional procedures guidance](#) has more about what a procedure is and how we assess them.

Is this procedure right for me?

If you've been offered this procedure, your healthcare professionals should discuss with you what is involved, and tell you about the risks and benefits. They should talk with you about your options, and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. All of this should happen before you agree (consent) to have the procedure. You should also be told how to find more information about the procedure. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

Some questions to think about

- What does the procedure involve?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- What happens if the procedure doesn't work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I don't want the procedure? Are there other treatments available?

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