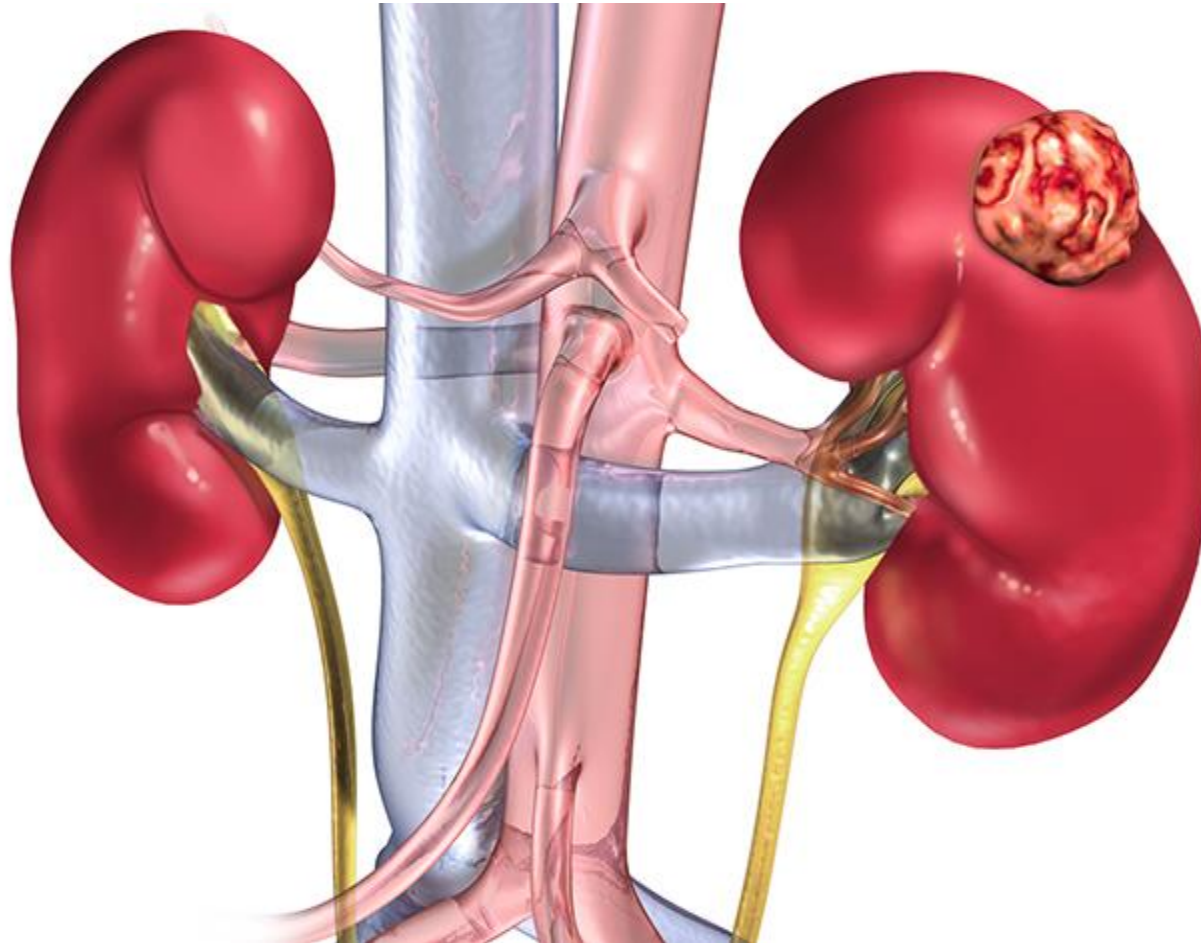


7 Practical lecture

What Is Kidney Cancer?

[Kidney cancer](#) -- also called renal [cancer](#) -- is a disease in which kidney cells become malignant (cancerous) and grow out of control, forming a tumor. Almost all kidney cancers first appear in the lining of tiny tubes (tubules) in the kidney. This type of kidney cancer is called [renal cell carcinoma](#)





Causes

Factors that can increase the risk of kidney cancer include:

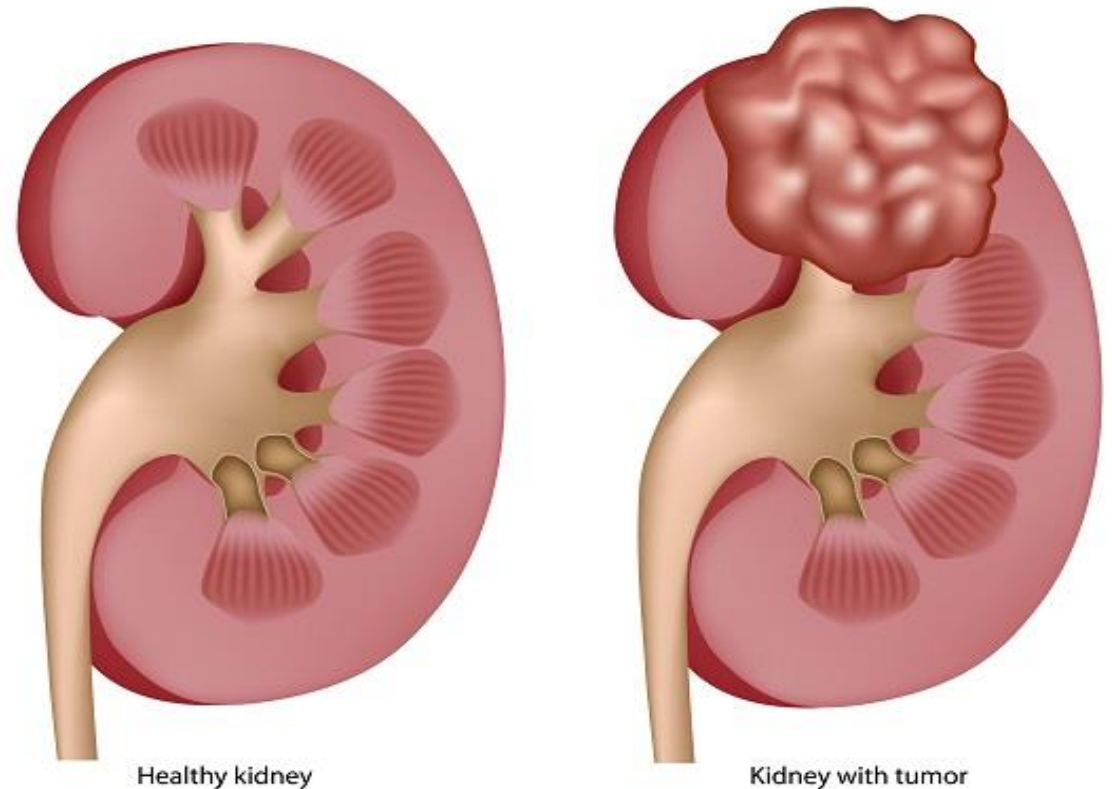
- Older age.** Your risk of kidney cancer increases as you age.
- Smoking.** Smokers have a greater risk of kidney cancer than nonsmokers do. The risk decreases after you quit.
- Obesity.** People who are obese have a higher risk of kidney cancer than people who are considered to have a healthy weight.
- High blood pressure (hypertension).** High blood pressure increases your risk of kidney cancer.
- Treatment for kidney failure.** People who receive long-term dialysis to treat chronic kidney failure have a greater risk of developing kidney cancer.
- Certain inherited syndromes.** People who are born with certain inherited syndromes may have an increased risk of kidney cancer, such as those who have von Hippel-Lindau disease, Birt-Hogg-Dube syndrome, tuberous sclerosis complex, hereditary papillary renal cell carcinoma or familial renal cancer.
- Family history of kidney cancer.** The risk of kidney cancer is higher if close family members have had the disease.

Symptoms

Kidney cancer usually doesn't have signs or symptoms in its early stages. In time, signs and symptoms may develop, including:

- Blood in your urine, which may appear pink, red or cola colored
- Pain in your back or side that doesn't go away
- Loss of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Tiredness
- Fever

Kidney Cancer



Diagnosis

- **Urine tests** check for blood in your urine or other signs of problems.
- **Blood tests** show how well your kidneys are working.
- **Intravenous pyelogram (IVP)** involves X-raying your kidneys after the doctor injects a dye that travels to your urinary tract, highlighting any tumors.
- **Ultrasound** uses sound waves to create a picture of your kidneys. It can help tell if a tumor is solid or fluid-filled.
- **A CT scan** uses X-rays and a computer to create a series of detailed pictures of your kidneys. This may also require an injection of dye. CT scans have virtually replaced pyelogram and ultrasound as a tool for diagnosing kidney cancer.
- **Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)** uses strong magnets and radio waves to create detailed images of soft tissues in your body. You may need an injection of a contrast agent to create better pictures.