

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Susan A. Steeves
(214) 648-3404
or E-mail: ssteev@mednet.swmed.edu

FREE BLADDER-CANCER TEST OFFERED AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS – Nov. 7, 1996 – UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas will host a free clinical education day Tuesday, Nov. 19, as part of National Bladder Health Awareness Week. Participants will fill out a questionnaire, and their urine will be tested for signs of early stage bladder tumors, the fifth most common cancer in Americans.

"It's important to be aware of indications of changes in bladder function, especially blood in the urine, because these variations could signal cancer," said Dr. Arthur Sagalowsky, UT Southwestern professor of urology and coordinator of the awareness day. Other symptoms of bladder cancer include urine discoloration, unusually frequent urination and discomfort while urinating.

Men and women age 50 and older who have never had bladder cancer are eligible to participate in the testing, which will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1-4 p.m. in the Urology Clinic on the 7th floor of the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd. and at Parkland Memorial Hospital in room 24 on the first floor, across from radiology. Parkland is next to Aston at the corner of Harry Hines and Motor St. No appointment is necessary.

Each person taking part in the program will answer questions concerning general health, occupational history and lifestyle. The responses will pinpoint possible risk factors for bladder cancer. It will take about five minutes to complete the questionnaire, and all the information will be confidential.

Participants then will provide a urine sample, which will be tested for the presence of blood. Results will be available immediately. Anyone with a positive result will be asked to contact their primary-care physician, who may conduct further tests to determine if there is a bladder tumor or if an infection is present.

Even a microscopic amount of blood in the urine can signal a problem, so it is

(MORE)

BLADDER-CANCER TEST – 2

important to be tested periodically and to tell your doctor about any changes in urination, said Sagalowsky, holder of the Dr. Paul Peters Chair in Urology in Memory of Rumsey and Louis Strickland.

The Bladder Health Council of the American Foundation for Urologic Disease organized the national education and awareness week, which runs from Nov. 17-23.

Anyone interested in the program can obtain further information by calling (214) 648-7272.

###