

Germline prognostic markers for urinary bladder cancer

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PROPOSITIONS

1. Genetic studies on urinary bladder cancer prognosis are still in their infancy, with most reports only considering candidate genetic loci, while the overwhelming volume of genetic information is not analysed in settings such as genome-wide association studies.
2. Nurture works on what nature endows. In the context of bladder cancer, smoking interacts with multiple genetic loci and both forces shape clinical outcomes.
3. Robust genetic findings require large sample sizes, which is a challenge for bladder cancer populations. Publicly available, observational medical data sources must be better utilised for discovery and validation studies.
4. Clinical outcomes are not created equal – each bladder cancer prognostic measure is likely to have unique pathogenesis and genetic contributors.
5. Discovery is always more exciting, but reproducibility is the only thing that proves the evidence is reliable.
6. The last 15 years have changed our entire understanding of genetics and the lack of straightforward answer is anything but surprising. It is still not clear if we are asking adequate questions.
7. A map is not the territory.
8. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. No point in being a damned fool about it (W.C. Fields).