

Alon Z. Weizer, MD, MS



## Team Based Improvement for Patients undergoing Cystectomy for Bladder Cancer at U-M

Monday  
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4:30PM  
in 1123 LBME

Urinary bladder cancer is the 4th most common cancer in men and 9th most common cancer in women with an incidence of over 70,000 new cases/year. This incidence continues to grow with the aging of the population who had the greatest exposure to tobacco, environmental and industrial toxins. In addition, there are over ½ a million patients living with bladder cancer who require surveillance and ongoing treatment making bladder cancer one of the most expensive cancers to treat per patient. For invasive cancers, removal of the bladder (radical cystectomy) is the standard treatment option. However, this treatment is associated with significant morbidity and a 1-4% ninety-day mortality because of the aggressiveness of the disease, co-morbidities of the patient population and complexity of the surgery. Significant efforts in both patient selection, surgical technique and anesthesia delivery have resulted in improved outcomes with patients requiring this surgery. However, there is a continued need to improve the value of the care we deliver patients through continuous quality improvement utilizing Lean principles and operational efficiencies. In my presentation, I will describe the current and future efforts at the University of Michigan to improve the care of patients requiring radical cystectomy utilizing a team-based approach to process improvement and discuss some of the barriers in medicine to broadly implementing these approaches.

**Alon Weizer** is currently Medical Director of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and Associate Professor of Urology. He was born in Kitchener, Ontario but until moving to Ann Arbor, MI over 10 years ago, called San Antonio, Texas his home. He attended Duke University in Durham, NC where he graduated Magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He attended medical school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX and completed his surgery and urology training at Duke University Medical Center. In 2005, Alon came to Ann Arbor to complete a 2 year fellowship in Urologic Oncology and Minimally Invasive Surgery and joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in 2007. He completed a Masters of Clinical Research, Statistical Design, and Analysis through the Rackham Graduate School in 2009. Clinically, Alon focuses on Urologic Oncology with particular interest in bladder, kidney and testis cancer. His research has focused on risk stratification and novel therapies for early bladder cancer. More recently, Alon is the lead physician of the Bladder Cancer Clinical Innovation Program focusing on process improvement for patients receiving bladder cancer care at the University of Michigan. He is also the Medical Director of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Outpatient Clinic and Infusion Center. Alon lives in Ann Arbor with his wife and three children. When he is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing tennis, fishing, and swimming.

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For additional information and to be added to the weekly e-mail for the series, please contact [genekim@umich.edu](mailto:genekim@umich.edu)