

1           Who should be investigated for haematuria? Results of a  
2           contemporary prospective observational study of 3556 patients  
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37 **ABSTRACT**

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39 There remains a lack of consensus among guideline relating to which patients  
40 require investigation for haematuria. We determined the incidence of urinary tract  
41 cancer in a prospective observational study of 3556 patients referred for  
42 investigation of haematuria across 40 hospitals between March 2016 and June 2017  
43 (DETECT 1; ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT02676180) and the appropriateness of age at  
44 presentation in cases with visible (VH) and non-visible haematuria (NVH). The  
45 overall incidence of urinary tract cancer was 10.0% (bladder cancer 8.0%, renal  
46 parenchymal cancer 1.0%, upper tract transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) 0.7%,  
47 prostate cancer 0.3%). Patients with VH were more likely to have a diagnosis of  
48 urinary tract cancer compared to NVH patients (13.8% vs 3.1%). Older patients,  
49 male gender and smoking history were independently associated with urinary tract  
50 cancer diagnosis. 59.4% of bladder cancer diagnosed following NVH were high risk  
51 with 31.3% muscle invasive. Incidence of cancer in VH patients <45 years was 3.5%  
52 (n=7) and 1.0% (n=4) in NVH patients <60 years. Our results suggest that patients  
53 with VH should be investigated regardless of age. Although the risk of urinary tract  
54 cancer in NVH patients is low, clinically significant cancers are detected below the  
55 age threshold for referral for investigation.

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57 **Patient summary**

58 This study highlights the requirement to investigate all patients with visible blood in  
59 the urine and an age threshold of  $\geq 60$  years, as recommended in some guidelines,  
60 for the investigation of non-visible blood in the urine will miss a significant number of  
61 urinary tract cancers. Patient preference is important and evidence that patients are  
62 willing to submit to investigation should be considered in reaching a consensus  
63 recommendation for the investigation of haematuria. International consensus to  
64 guide which patients will benefit from investigation should be developed.

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66 Key words: age; bladder cancer; haematuria; incidence; investigation; renal cancer

67 There remains a lack of consensus among guideline relating to which patients  
68 require investigation for haematuria [1]. In 2015, the UK National Institute for Health  
69 and Care Excellence (NICE) recommended that patients aged  $\geq 45$  years with visible  
70 haematuria (VH) and  $\geq 60$  years with non-visible haematuria (NVH) with either  
71 dysuria or raised white cell count on blood test should be urgently referred on a  
72 suspected cancer pathway [2]. The American Urology Association (AUA)  
73 recommends that all patients with VH and patients with microscopic haematuria ( $\geq 3$   
74 red blood cells/ high power field)  $\geq 35$  years should be investigated [3]. In contrast,  
75 the National Board of Health and Welfare of Sweden do not recommended  
76 investigating NVH cases [4].

77 The DETECT I study is a prospective multi-centre observational study recruiting  
78 patients referred for investigation of haematuria [5]. We report the incidence of  
79 urinary tract cancer in cases referred for investigation of haematuria and specifically  
80 addressing whether age at presentation can be applied as a threshold for referral of  
81 haematuria investigation.

82 Between March 2016 and June 2017, 3556 patients from 40 hospitals were recruited  
83 (Supplementary Fig 1). All patients had cystoscopy and upper tract imaging. Patient  
84 demographics including age, gender, occupation, ethnicity and smoking history were  
85 recorded. Urinary tract cancer comprised of bladder cancer or upper tract cancer  
86 (renal parenchymal cancer and upper tract transitional cell carcinoma [TCC]). The  
87 reference standard for bladder cancer was histopathological confirmation of tumour  
88 according to the TNM WHO tumour classification and European Association of  
89 Urology (EAU) risk classification [6, 7]. The reference standard for upper tract cancer  
90 diagnosis was based on multidisciplinary team meeting consensus following review  
91 of imaging. The full trial protocol has been previously reported [5].

92 Patient demographics according to diagnosis of urinary tract cancer is described in  
93 Table 1. Urinary tract cancer was identified in 10% of all patients referred for  
94 investigation for haematuria (13.8% of VH cases and 3.1% of NVH cases). Bladder  
95 cancer was detected in 8.0% of patients and accounted for 79.8% of cancers  
96 detected whereas the incidence of upper tract cancer was 1.7%, accounting for  
97 17.7% of cancers detected. Renal parenchymal cancer represented 61% (n=37) of  
98 upper tract cancer and upper tract TCC was detected in the remaining 49% (n=26) of

99 cases. Exclusively, all upper tract TCC and 83.8% of renal parenchymal cancers  
100 presented with VH. Renal stone disease was diagnosed in 7.5% of patients.  
101 Angiomyolipoma and pelvis ureteric junction obstruction were identified in <1% of  
102 patients.

103 Patients were stratified by gender, type of haematuria at presentation and type of  
104 cancer diagnosed according to age decile (Table 2A, 2B and Supplementary Table  
105 1). In total, 602 patients (16.9%) were referred below the NICE recommended age  
106 threshold for VH (n=199) or NVH (n=403). In this group, a cancer diagnosis was  
107 established in 1.8% (n=11) of patients (10 bladder cancer & one upper tract TCC).  
108 No cancers presented with NVH in patients referred below the AUA threshold of <35  
109 years. The incidence of cancer in patients with VH <45 years was 3.5% (n=7) and  
110 1.0% (n=4) in patients with NVH <60 years.

111 High risk cancers accounted for 49.6% of tumours identified following VH; 15.4%  
112 were classified as muscle invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) (Supplementary Table 2).  
113 In patients with NVH, 59.4% of the cases were classified as high risk cancer and  
114 31.3% were MIBC. Analysis of bladder cancers detected below the NICE age  
115 threshold for investigation of VH report that four of the six bladder cancers were high  
116 or intermediate risk cancers, one of which was MIBC. Of the four bladder cancers  
117 detected following NVH below the NICE age threshold, three were high or  
118 intermediate risk cancers, one of which was a G3pT1 cancer.

119 This study underpins the importance of investigating patients presenting with  
120 haematuria. We highlight that an age threshold cannot be assigned in patients with  
121 VH and applying an age threshold defined by NICE will fail to detect clinically  
122 significant disease. To our knowledge, this study is the first to confirm that cancers  
123 detected in patients presenting with NVH are high risk with a significant number of  
124 MIBC. Applying the NICE defined age threshold will fail to detect 10.5 % of cancers  
125 with NVH (incident: 1.0%) and 2.2% of cancers with VH (incidence: 3.5%). All  
126 cancers would be detected using AUA age thresholds.

127 NICE suggests that a sign or symptom associated with  $\geq 3\%$  risk of cancer should  
128 prompt referral for diagnostic tests [2]. Our results suggest a case for the  
129 investigation of all patients with VH. The following NVH is less clear with a cancer  
130 incident rate of <3%. However, the overall incidence of urinary tract cancer in

131 females investigated for NVH is actually similar to that of patients aged between 40-  
132 59 years, both below the 3% threshold. However, the knowledge that cancers  
133 diagnosed following a presentation of NVH are clinically significant highlights the  
134 importance of considering patient preference.

135 The importance of patient preference has recently been highlighted using a vignette  
136 study to explore the likelihood that patients would want diagnostic tests if there was a  
137 risk of cancer diagnosis [8]. Banks and colleagues showed that 85% of patients  
138 would want referral for investigation for a symptom attributing a 1% risk of cancer,  
139 even if invasive testing is required such as colonoscopy for colon cancer [8].

140 An important limitation of the study is accrual of cases was by sampling individual  
141 haematuria clinics rather than recruiting all patients during a defined time period.  
142 However, patients were recruited before cystoscopy to exclude selection bias based  
143 on diagnosis. The incidence of urinary tract cancer in patients with haematuria from  
144 this study represents detection rate in secondary care and this will be higher than  
145 patients in primary care.

146 This study suggests that patients with VH should be investigated regardless of age.  
147 A decision to investigate NVH should reflect patient choice and public health policy.  
148 What is clear is that there is a lack of consensus across guideline bodies and a  
149 European wide guideline would aid physician decision making and patient selection  
150 for referral for investigation of haematuria.

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All authors certify that all conflicts of interest, including specific financial interests and relationships and affiliations relevant to the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript (eg, employment/affiliation, grants or funding, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, royalties, or patents filed, received, or pending), are the following: None

### **Ethical approval of studies and informed consent**

The study protocol was approved by Health Research Authority: North West Liverpool Central Research Ethics Committee on March 2016 (IRAS project ID: 179245, REC reference: 16/NW/0150).

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### **Take home message**

Visible haematuria should be investigated regardless of age. While the risk of urinary tract cancer in patients <60 years with NVH is low, clinically significant bladder cancers are still diagnosed. European wide consensus for haematuria should be developed.

Table 1: Patient demographics stratified according to presence or absence of urinary tract cancer

	All patients (n=3556)	Urinary tract cancer (n=355)	No urinary tract cancer (n=3201)	Univariate p value
Age (median, IQR)	67.7 (57, 76)	74.2 (67, 81)	66.8 (56, 75)	
Age (mean, range)	65.7 (19-99)	73.0 (28-96)	64.9 (19-99)	<0.001
Haematuria, n (%):				<0.001
Visible	2311 (65.0)	317 (89.3)	1994 (62.3)	
Non-visible	1245 (35.0)	38 (10.7)	1207 (37.7)	
Gender, n (%):				<0.001
Male	2112 (59.4)	273 (76.7)	1839 (57.5)	
Female	1444 (40.6)	82 (23.1)	1362 (42.5)	
Ethnicity, n (%):				0.021
Afro-Caribbean	51 (1.4)	2 (0.6)	49 (1.5)	
South Asian	86 (2.4)	6 (1.8)	80 (2.5)	
Oriental	15 (0.4)	0 (0)	15 (0.5)	
White	3080 (86.6)	330 (93.0)	2750 (85.9)	
Mix	31 (0.9)	2 (0.6)	29 (0.9)	
Other	23 (0.6)	2 (0.6)	21 (0.7)	
Not known	271 (7.6)	13 (3.7)	257 (8.0)	
Smoking history, n (%):				<0.001
Non-smoker	1528 (42.9)	115 (32.6)	1413 (44.0)	
Current/ ex-smoker	1896 (53.2)	230 (64.6)	1666 (52.0)	
Not known	137 (3.8)	11 (2.8)	127 (4.0)	
Employment status, n (%):				<0.001
Full time/ part time work/ study/ home maker	1518 (42.7)	85 (23.9)	1433 (44.8)	
Retired	1764 (49.6)	250 (70.4)	1514 (47.3)	
Unemployed	78 (2.2)	4 (1.1)	74 (2.3)	
Disability	40 (1.1)	2 (0.6)	38 (1.2)	
Not known	156 (4.4)	14 (3.9)	142 (4.4)	
Occupational risk factor*, n (%)				0.708
Yes	531 (14.9)	54 (15.2)	477 (14.9)	
No	2756 (77.5)	278 (78.4)	2478 (77.4)	
Not known	269 (7.6)	23 (6.5)	246 (7.7)	

\*defined as gardener, painter, hairdresser/ barber, textile worker or metals factory worker

Table 2: Incidence of malignancy stratified according to age groups. NICE recommended age thresholds for haematuria investigations are shaded. 3A: Male. 3B: Female

A

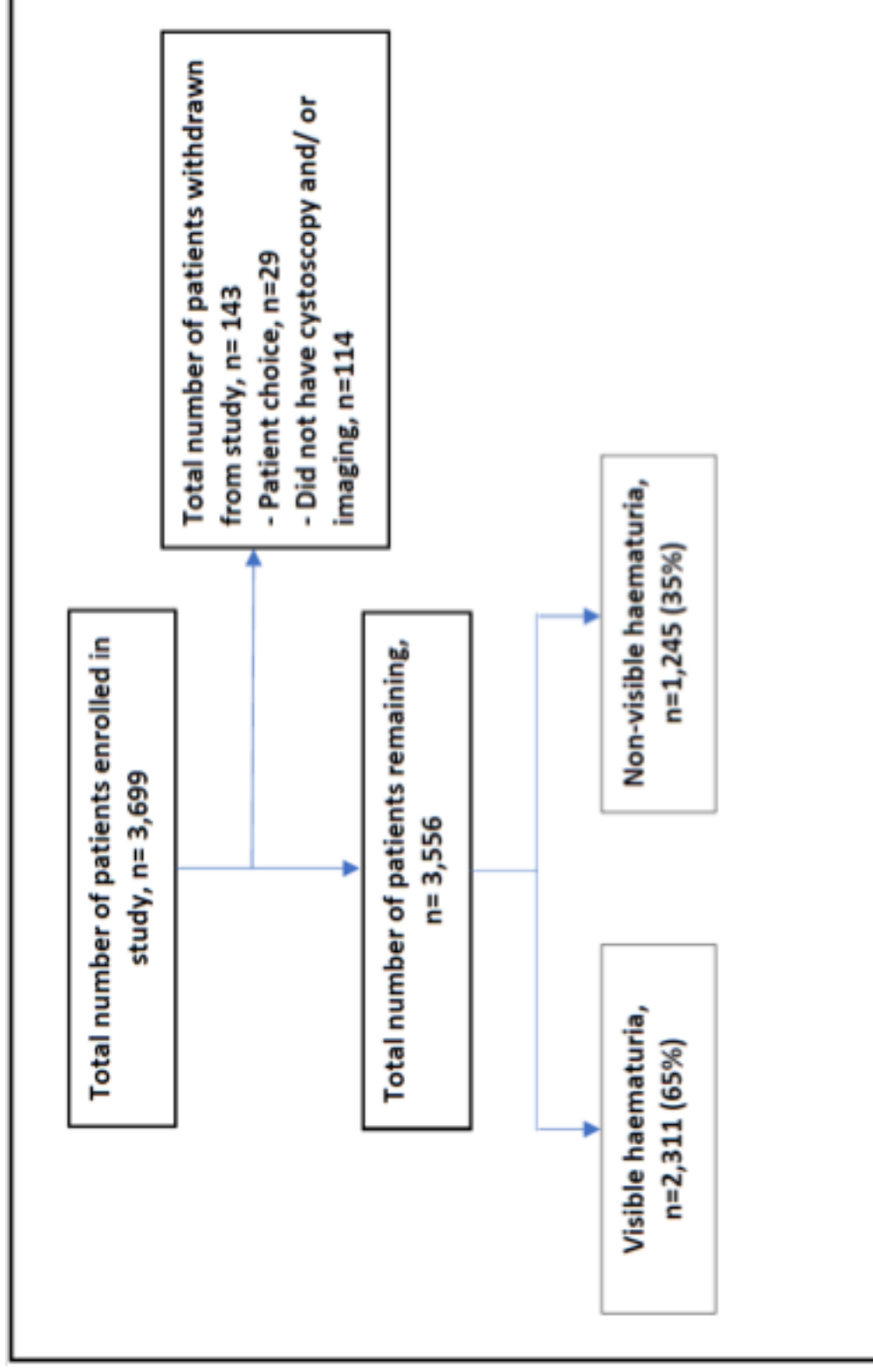
Age groups	Visible haematuria, n (%)					Non-visible haematuria, n (%)				
	Total patients	All urinary tract cancers	Bladder cancer	Renal cancer	Upper tract TCC	Total patients	All urinary tract cancers	Bladder cancer	Renal cancer	Upper tract TCC
10-19	2	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
20-29	19	1 (5.3)	1 (5.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
30-39	44	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-44	47	3 (6.4)	2 (4.3)	0 (0)	1 (2.1)	20	1 (5.0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
45-49	77	3 (3.9)	2 (2.6)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.3)	33	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
50-59	280	20 (7.1)	13 (4.6)	4 (1.4)	3 (1.1)	81	1 (1.2)	1 (1.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
60-69	331	45 (13.6)	37 (11.2)	5 (1.5)	2 (0.6)	126	5 (4.0)	5 (4.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
70-79	514	108 (21.0)	94 (18.3)	6 (1.2)	6 (1.2)	164	9 (5.5)	9 (5.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)
80-89	261	64 (24.5)	52 (25.2)	2 (0.8)	5 (1.9)	66	7 (10.6)	6 (9.1)	1 (1.5)	0 (0)
90-99	33	5 (15.2)	5 (15.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7	1 (14.3)	1 (14.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	1608	249 (15.5)	206 (12.8)	18 (1.2)	18 (1.1)	506	24 (4.8)	23 (4.6)	1 (0.2)	0 (0)

B

Age groups	Visible haematuria, n (%)					Non-visible haematuria, n (%)				
	Total patients	All urinary tract cancers	Bladder cancer	Renal cancer	Upper tract TCC	Total patients	All urinary tract cancers	Bladder cancer	Renal cancer	Upper tract TCC
10-19	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
20-29	20	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
30-39	31	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	26	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-44	35	3 (8.6)	3 (8.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	25	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
45-49	55	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	44	1 (2.3)	1 (2.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
50-59	163	8 (4.9)	1 (0.6)	5 (3.1)	2 (1.2)	157	1 (0.6)	1 (0.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)
60-69	174	17 (9.8)	13 (7.5)	1 (0.6)	3 (1.7)	206	4 (1.9)	3 (1.5)	1 (0.5)	0 (0)
70-79	153	23 (15.0)	18 (11.8)	4 (2.6)	1 (0.7)	191	4 (2.1)	2 (1.0)	2 (1.3)	0 (0)
80-89	58	11 (15.9)	8 (13.8)	2 (3.5)	1 (1.7)	81	4 (4.9)	2 (2.5)	2 (3.4)	0 (0)
90-99	14	5 (35.7)	4 (28.6)	0 (0)	1 (7.1)	5	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	704	68 (9.7)	47 (6.7)	13 (1.8)	8 (1.1)	743	14 (1.9)	9 (1.2)	5 (0.7)	0 (0)

TCC: transitional cell carcinoma

Supplementary Fig 1: Flow diagram of patients recruited into study



Supplementary Table 1: Diagnosis of patients investigated for haematuria stratified according to haematuria type and gender

	All patients			Male		Female		
	Any haematuria (n=3556)	NVH (n=1245)	Any haematuria (n=2112)	VH (n=1607)	NVH (n=505)	Any haematuria (n=1447)	VH (n=704)	NVH (n=743)
Any urinary tract cancer, n (%)	357 (10.0)	38 (3.1)	275 (13.0)	251 (15.6)	24 (4.8)	82 (5.7)	68 (9.7)	14 (1.9)
Bladder cancer, n (%)	285 (8.0)	32 (2.5)	229 (10.8)	206 (12.8)	23 (4.6)	56 (3.9)	47 (6.7)	9 (1.2)
Renal parenchymal cancer, n (%)	37 (1.0)	6 (0.5)	19 (0.9)	18 (1.2)	1 (0.2)	18 (1.2)	13 (1.8)	5 (0.7)
Upper tract transitional cell carcinoma, n (%)	26 (0.7)	(0)	18 (0.9)	18 (1.1)	0 (0)	8 (0.6)	8 (1.1)	0 (0)
Prostate cancer, n (%)	9 (0.3)	0 (0)	9 (0.4)	9 (0.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Stone disease, n (%)	267 (7.5)	54 (4.3)	180 (8.5)	160 (10.0)	20 (4.0)	87 (6.0)	53 (7.5)	34 (4.6)
Angiomyolipoma, n (%)	17 (0.5)	9 (0.7)	4 (0.2)	3 (0.2)	1 (0.2)	13 (0.9)	5 (0.7)	8 (1.1)
Pelvic ureteric junction obstruction, n (%)	8 (0.2)	1 (<0.1)	5 (0.2)	5 (0.3)	0 (0)	3 (0.2)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.1)

NVH: non-visible haematuria; VH: Visible haematuria; TCC: transitional cell carcinoma

Supplementary Table 2: Histopathological results following transurethral resection of bladder tumour stratified according to type of haematuria.

	Any haematuria (n=299)		Non-visible haematuria (n=33)	
	Any haematuria (n=266)	Visible haematuria (n=266)	Non-visible haematuria (n=33)	
Grade, n (%):				
G1	34 (12.0)	27 (10.8)	7 (21.9)	
G2	116 (41.0)	109 (43.4)	7 (21.9)	
G3*	133 (47.0)	115 (45.8)	18 (56.3)	
TMN stage, n (%):				
cIS*	4 (1.3)	4 (1.6)	0 (0)	
pTa	171 (57.4)	155 (61.8)	15 (46.9)	
pT1*	58 (19.5)	51 (19.2)	7 (21.9)	

≥pT2*	51 (17.1)	41 (15.4)	10 (31.3)
papillary NMIBC + CIS, n (%)	33(14.4)	29(14.1)	4 (18.2)
Number of tumours, n (%):			
1	220 (73.8)	196 (74.0)	24 (75.0)
≥2	46 (15.4)	39 (14.7)	7 (21.9)
Not known	32 (10.7)	30 (11.3)	1 (3.1)
Histology subtype, n (%):			
TCC	276 (92.3)	244 (91.7)	32 (97.0)
Adenocarcinoma	2 (0.7)	2 (0.8)	0 (0)
Squamous cell	4 (1.3)	4 (1.5)	0 (0)
Prostate cancer	9 (3.0)	9 (3.4)	0 (0)
Papilloma	5 (1.7)	4 (1.5)	1 (3.0)
Other**	3 (1.0)	3 (1.1)	0 (0)
Disease risk, n (%):			
Low	33 (11.1)	26 (10.3)	7 (21.9)
Intermediate	107 (35.9)	101 (40.1)	6 (18.8)
High	144 (48.3)	125 (49.6)	19 (59.4)

\* signifies high risk disease

\*\*Other tumours comprise of a giant cell cancer, amyloid and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma