Testing and Imaging to Stage Urologic Cancer

AUA President, Professor Emeritus of Urology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, USA
Anton J. Bueschen

Testing and imaging to stage urologic cancer has improved greatly during the past few decades. The art of providing cost-effective assessment requires understanding the most efficient times to use or not use laboratory and imaging studies for staging. This lecture will provide staging recommendations for the most common urologic cancers: prostate, bladder, kidney, and testis.

Laboratory test results are often overlooked such as an elevated alkaline phosphatase suggesting a bone metastasis. A prostate specific antigen (PSA) number can provide an important clue about the stage of prostate cancer. Computed tomography scans (CT) and bone scans are often used more frequently than needed to investigate for the presence of metastases in lymph nodes or bones. Recommendations will be presented to encourage intelligent testing to improve clinical staging of urologic cancers.