

# Challenging Cases in Urothelial Cancer<sup>1</sup>

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Received 3 February 2020

Accepted 2 May 2020

Pre-press 26 May 2020

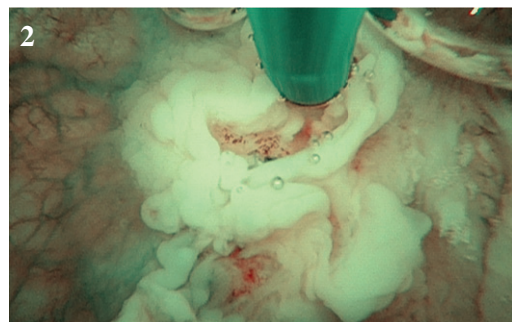
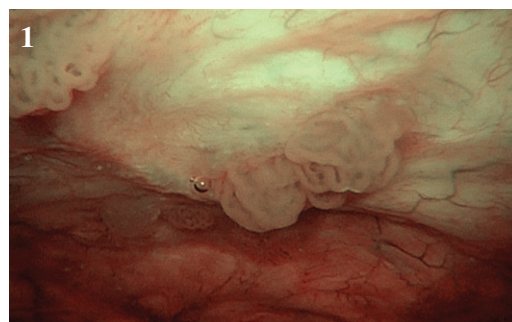
Published 11 June 2020

## CASE 16

This is a 60 year old healthy man who presented with gross hematuria. He had a 20-pack year cigarette smoking history. He stopped smoking 10 years ago. A CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis was normal. An office flexible cystoscopy identified a 3 cm papillary tumor. A transurethral resection was performed and the pathology was a high grade Ta (non-invasive) bladder cancer. Since the initial tumor appeared to be low grade by endoscopy and there was no CIS I did not proceed with BCG despite the final pathology of high grade. His next endoscopy was 3 months later. I found three very small low grade appearing non-invasive tumors and cauterized them easily and thoroughly in the office (Figs. 1–3).

The next cystoscopy was 2 months later. There was a single 3 cm papillary tumor which was removed by transurethral resection (TURBT). The pathology was low grade Ta. In the following cystoscopy two areas of tumor were seen. A 2 cm papillary tumor which I thought was another low-grade Ta tumor was located at the posterior wall (Fig. 4) and a small low grade appearing papillary area was seen at the left bladder neck (Fig. 5). A TURBT was performed and the pathology indicated the tumor at the posterior wall invaded the lamina propria, i.e. T1. There was no muscle identified in the specimen. The small tumor located at the bladder neck was low grade Ta.

The guidelines are quite clear in indicating a repeat resection is required even though I was confident I had



Figs. 1–3. Small papillary low grade Ta appearing bladder tumors cauterized in the office setting using topical anesthesia.

<sup>1</sup>This article received a addendum notice (Erratum) with the reference: 10.3233/BLC-219602, available at <https://content.iospress.com/articles/bladder-cancer/blc219602>.

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Fig. 4. Papillary tumor posterior wall.

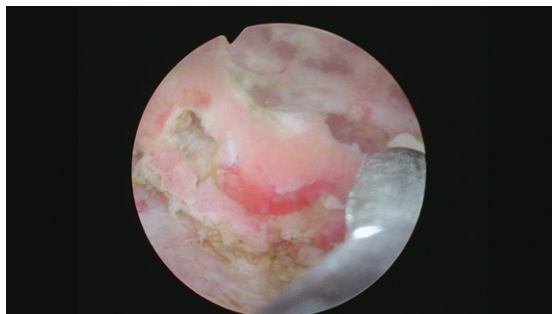


Fig. 8. Retrieving en bloc specimen with biopsy forceps.

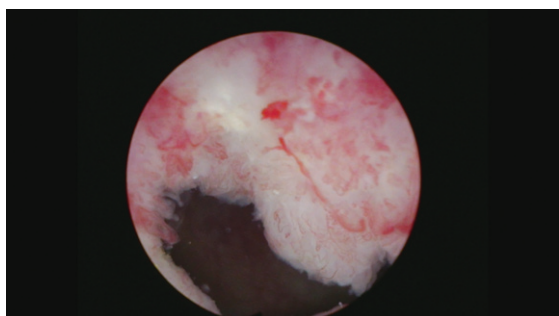


Fig. 5. Papillary tumor left bladder neck.

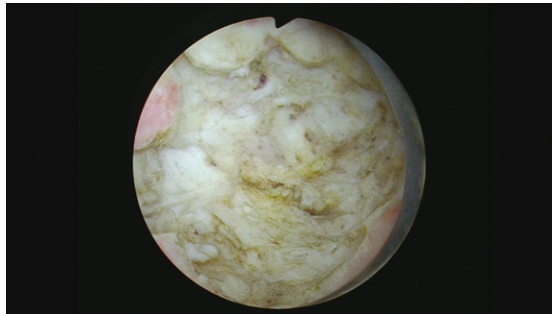


Fig. 9. Bed of the resection site indicating depth of resection.



Fig. 6. Scar from prior TURBT.

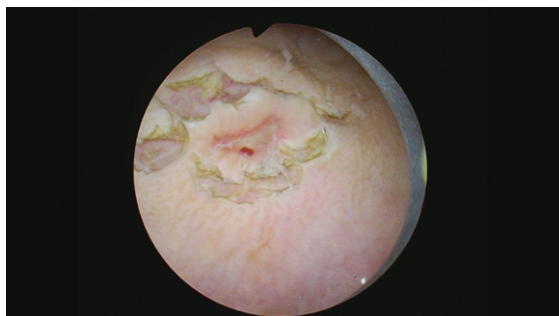
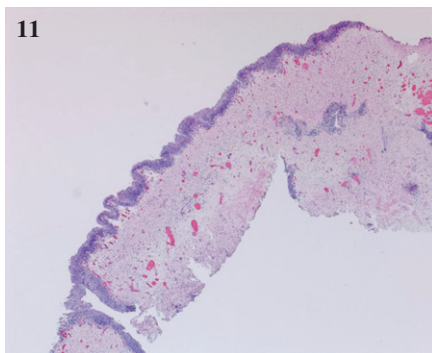
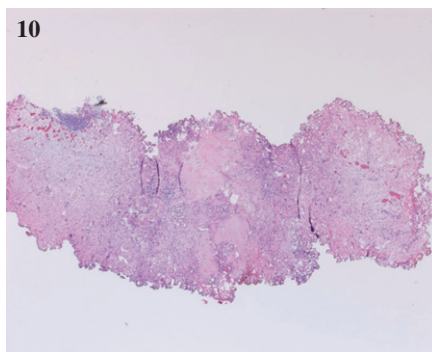


Fig. 7. En bloc resection.



Figs. 10–11. Pathology specimen from the en bloc resection. No tumor. No cautery artifact.

removed the entire tumor which I thought was most likely confined to the urothelium.

I have been impressed with the concept of an en bloc resection although I have not routinely been using this for the standard TURBT. In this instance the area of prior resection was easily identified (Fig. 6) and I used the bipolar resectoscope system with a standard right angle loop to cut into the bladder wall in a circumferential manner around the scar in an effort to elevate the tissue while minimizing cautery (Fig. 7). I then used a biopsy forceps to easily remove the single intact specimen (Fig. 8). There was no

tumor in the specimen (Figs. 9–11). The patient has started a course of intravesical BCG.

#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

MS contributed to the work conception, performance, analysis of data and writing; NAA contributed to performance and analysis of data.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nothing to disclose.