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## **THE INFLUENCE OF SMOKING ON THE GENITOURINARY SYSTEM**

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Today tobacco addiction is a global problem. According to the WHO tobacco smoking caused more than 100 million deaths in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Scientists predict about 1 billion deaths caused by smoking in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Cigarettes are known to cause cancers of the lungs, larynx, mouth, esophagus, throat, bladder, kidney, pancreas, stomach, cervix, as well as acute myeloid leukemia. It is a well-known fact that smoking also contributes to heart diseases, stroke, aortic aneurysm and some others. But often people do not know about the effects of smoking on the genitourinary system.

The fact is that nicotine and carcinogens contained in cigarette smoke are excreted by the kidneys through the urinary tract. Therefore, quite a large number of smokers suffer from diseases of the kidneys and genitals. It is proved that the risk of genitourinary cancer among smokers is 8 times greater than among non-smokers. According to the statistics, 88% of patients with cancer of the genitourinary system are heavy smokers.

Smoking can be linked to reproductive system issues in both men and women.

When compared to non-smokers, women smokers are more likely to suffer from:

- Reduced fertility
- Menstrual irregularities and cramps
- Early menopause
- Vulvar cancer

Men who smoke are more likely to suffer from erectile dysfunction, prostate cancer, penile cancer and testicular cancer.

Prostate cancer is diagnosed more frequently in smokers. Over the last 30 years the number of cases has increased 3 times. Unfortunately, in our country 12.5% of prostate cancer is diagnosed in the most severe stage.

This problem is considered to be of great importance to future doctors. They can influence this process by informing patients about the harm of smoking, making a correct diagnosis, prescribing an appropriate medicine and explaining to the patients the significance and the necessity of following the administered course of treatment.