**HOT BATCH 3 Paras**

**Adrenocortical Cancer**

Adrenocortical cancer is a rare disease in which cancer forms in the cortex (outer layer) of an adrenal gland. There are two adrenal glands. One sits on top of each kidney. The adrenal cortex makes important hormones, including ones that keep water and salt in balance, control blood pressure, and help the body use energy.

Adrenocortical tumors usually make extra amounts of one or more adrenal hormones, which may cause symptoms.

Certain inherited disorders increase the risk of adrenocortical cancer. These include Li-Fraumeni syndrome, Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome, and Carney complex.

Adrenocortical cancer may also be called adrenal cortical carcinoma.

**Pheochromocytoma/ Paraganglioma**

Pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma are rare tumors that form from neuroendocrine cells. Neuroendocrine cells release hormones into the blood when they receive a signal from the nervous system. Neuroendocrine cells are found all through the body.

Paragangliomas usually form near the carotid artery and along nerve pathways in the head, neck, and spine. Pheochromocytomas form in the adrenal medulla (the center of the adrenal gland found on top of each kidney).

Pheochromocytomas and some paragangliomas release the hormones adrenaline and noradrenaline into the blood. This may cause symptoms such as high blood pressure, pounding headaches, flushing, and heart palpitations.

Certain inherited disorders increase the risk of pheochromocytoma or paraganglioma. These include multiple endocrine neoplasia 2 syndrome, types A and B , von Hippel-Lindau syndrome, and neurofibromatosis type 1.

Pheochromocytomas and paragangliomas may be benign or malignant.

**Intraocular Melanoma**

Intraocular melanoma is a rare disease in which cancer forms in melanocytes in the eye. Melanocytes are cells that make melanin (the pigment that gives skin and eyes their color).

Intraocular melanoma begins in the uvea. The uvea has three parts. The iris is the colored area at the front of the eye. The ciliary body is a ring of muscle tissue that changes the size of the pupil and the shape of the lens. The choroid is a layer of blood vessels that brings oxygen and nutrients to the eye. Most intraocular melanomas begin in the choroid.

There may be no early signs or symptoms of intraocular melanoma. It is sometimes found during an eye exam.

Risk factors for intraocular melanoma include having fair skin that freckles and burns easily, does not tan, or tans poorly and having blue, green, or other light-colored eyes.

**Bladder Cancer**

The bladder is a hollow organ in the lower part of the abdomen that stores urine until it is passed out of the body.

The most common type of bladder cancer is transitional cell carcinoma, which begins in urothelial cells that line the inside of the bladder. Urothelial cells are transitional cells, which are able to change shape and stretch when the bladder is full. This type of cancer is also called urothelial carcinoma. Other types of bladder cancer include squamous cell carcinoma (cancer that begins in thin, flat cells lining the bladder) and adenocarcinoma (cancer that begins in cells that make and release mucus and other fluids).

People who smoke have an increased risk of bladder cancer. Being exposed to certain chemicals and having chronic bladder infections can also increase the risk of bladder cancer.

The most common sign of bladder cancer is blood in the urine. Bladder cancer is often diagnosed at an early stage, when the cancer is easier to treat.

**Kidney Cancer (Includes Renal Cell, Transitional Cell of the Renal Pelvis, and Wilms)**

There are two kidneys, one on each side of the spine, above the waist. The kidneys clean the blood to take out waste and make urine. Urine collects in the renal pelvis, the area at the center of the kidney, and then passes through the ureter, into the bladder, and out of the body. The kidneys also make hormones that help control blood pressure and signal the bone marrow to make red blood cells when needed.

There are three main types of kidney cancer. Renal cell cancer is the most common type in adults and Wilms tumors are the most common in children. These types form in the tissues of the kidney that make urine. Transitional cell cancer forms in the renal pelvis and ureter in adults.

Smoking and taking certain pain medicines for a long time can increase the risk of adult kidney cancer. Certain inherited disorders can increase the risk of kidney cancer in children and adults. These include von Hippel-Lindau syndrome, hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell cancer, Birt-Hogg-Dubé syndrome, and hereditary papillary renal cancer.

Kidney cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage because usually there are no early signs or symptoms.

Kidney tumors may be benign or malignant.