

BCG (BACILLUS CALMETTE-GUERIN)



HOW DOES BCG HELP WITH MY CONDITION?

BCG is an inactivated bacteria, which when instilled into the bladder causes the body to produce cells to help fight bladder cancer.

BCG treatment assists with eliminating tumour(s), or prevents them from recurring or invading deeper layers of the bladder wall. BCG treatment is not successful in all patients.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON THE DAY OF AND DURING THE COURSE OF TREATMENT?

To obtain the maximum effect of BCG treatment, for the 4 hours prior to treatment it is important to have limited or no fluid intake. Food intake can continue as normal. Patients taking diuretics (fluid tablets), should take their tablets after the BCG treatment. Please enquire with the Urology Nurse Consultant if you are taking prednisolone. All other medications are to be taken as usual.

On the day of treatment, you will be consented by the doctor if you have not already done so. The BCG is placed into the bladder by firstly inserting a urinary catheter into your urethra, the solution of BCG is then instilled as a liquid form into the bladder.

Once the BCG is within the bladder, you will be repositioned several times to allow the entire surface of the bladder to come into contact with the BCG, thereby making it more effective.

After an hour the solution is drained out and the catheter is removed.

You will be provided with the date and time for your next appointment and you can be discharged home.

Upon discharge, you will be provided with a urine specimen container (MSU) & request slips. On the day specified by your Urology Nurse, prior to each BCG administration, you will need to attend the Pathology department at Western Hospital, if this is not possible, the Urology nurse can make other arrangements.

Your treatment will continue for a six week period on a weekly basis unless otherwise specified by your urology doctor or nurse.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN AT HOME?

For the first 6 hours after BCG treatment you should empty your bladder by sitting on the toilet (incl. Males). You must thoroughly clean your genital area and hands with soap and water after urinating.

Avoid direct skin contact with urine as this may cause irritation or a rash.

The toilet must also be disinfected post urination. To do this, pour 2 cups of bleach into the bowl and allow it to stand for 15 minutes prior to flushing.

Fluid intake should also be increased for the 24 hours following treatment to help flush the bladder.

Avoid sexual activity for 48 hours prior to treatment and condoms should be used during sexual activity during the treatment and for 6 weeks following completion.

SIDE EFFECTS

Sometimes there are side effects associated with BCG treatments including:

- Mild discomfort when urinating
- Frequency and difficulty with postponing urination due to urgency
- Mild flu like symptoms, including fatigue, loss of appetite and a low grade temperature.
- Mild blood stained urine for 1-2 days

Please turn over



SIDE EFFECTS OF CONCERN

If you present with any of the following symptoms for longer than 24 hours please contact your doctor and your urology nurse immediately:

- Fever and chills
- Cough
- Severe fatigue
- Temperature above 38.5C
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Severe pain when urinating or large amounts of blood in the urine
- Skin Rash

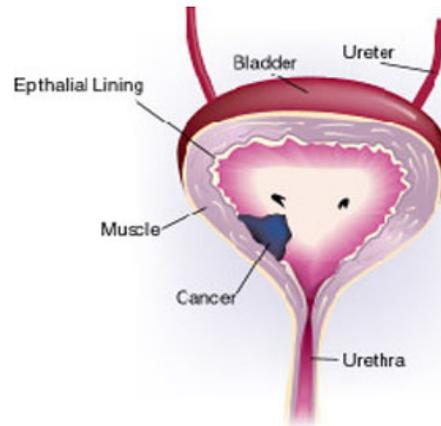
Persistent side effects or those of concern may delay the course of treatment temporarily.

FOLLOWING BCG TREATMENT

There will be regular follow up appointments, and a Cystoscopy 8 weeks post the completion of your BCG treatment through the Urology Department at Western Health. Your follow up will depend upon the stage of your bladder cancer.

If you see your Urologist privately you will need to make an appointment to discuss your follow up arrangements.

UROLOGY ANATOMY



For more information please contact:

The Urology Nurse Consultant at Western Health on 8345.6333

Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20

Health site: www.healthinsite.gov.au

This information leaflet contains important information to help you recover safely at home. This information is intended to support not replace a discussion with your doctor or health care professionals. Western Health accepts no liability for any information that may be perceived as misleading and directs you to your health professional.



UROLOGY SERVICE

BCG (BACILLUS CALMETTE-GUERIN) TREATMENT FOR SUPERFICIAL BLADDER CANCER

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