

## Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Treatment

BCG is a treatment used to prevent or delay the recurrence of bladder cancer. BCG is a form of immunotherapy. BCG is a bacteria that is used to stimulate your immune system to fight cancer cells. People who have a weakened immune system should not get this treatment.

### How the Treatment is Given

The treatment starts with six weekly treatments. You will be asked to give a urine sample. This is done to make sure you do not have an infection or blood in your urine. A catheter will be placed in your bladder. The medicine will be given through it. The catheter will be removed and you will be able to go home. You will be asked to try not to urinate for two hours after the treatment. This holds the medicine in your bladder.

### Before the Treatment

You do not need to follow a special diet before the treatment. You may want to limit how much fluid you drink on the morning or day of your treatment. That will help your bladder from filling too quickly.

### After the Treatment

- Try to hold the treatment in your bladder for two hours. If you can't hold it, that is okay.
- Do not hold it any longer than two hours
- Men need to sit down on the toilet to urinate. Do this for the first six hours after your treatment. This helps keep urine from splashing.
- After urinating, pour two cups of bleach in the toilet. Let it sit 15-20 minutes before flushing. This needs to be done every time you urinate for 6 hours after your treatment.
- Wash hands with soap and water thoroughly after urinating.
- Remove and wash clothes that get urine on them.
- If urine touches your skin, wash your skin with soap and water.
- Avoid sexual activity for 48 hours after a treatment. Use a condom any other time during treatment and for six weeks after treatment ends.

### Side Effects

Side effects are usually mild and improve within a few days after treatment. They may increase as the number of treatments increases. Not everyone has side effects.

You may have:

- Urinary urgency
- Urinary frequency
- Burning when you urinate
- Blood in your urine
- Tiredness
- Achiness

Talk to your doctor if you cannot manage the side effects. Call the office at (269) 349-9745 right away, if you have a fever over 101.5°F or a lot of blood in your urine for more than 24 hours.