

## What is BCG treatment?

BCG is a live vaccine used to vaccinate against TB (tuberculosis) and is also used to treat bladder cancer.

It is put into the bladder through a catheter to treat the lining of your bladder to stop or slow down re-growth of bladder cancer.

BCG Induction treatment is normally given once a week for 6 weeks followed by a maintenance regime.

The BCG maintenance treatment is once a week for 3 weeks at 3, 6 and 12 months. The need for further maintenance treatment every 6 months beyond the first year of treatment will be evaluated by your Urology Consultant. You will also have regular check cystoscopies to evaluate the effectiveness of your treatment; these can be done in the Day Surgery Unit or the Outpatient department.

## Are there any reasons why I should not have BCG treatment?

You should not receive BCG treatment if any of the following apply to you.

- ü Impaired immune response (i.e. reduced ability to fight infection).
- ü HIV.
- ü Urinary Tract Infection.
- ü Visible blood in your urine.
- ü Active TB.
- ü Fever.
- ü Pregnant/breast feeding.

## What are the side effects?

Most patients do not have any major problems with this treatment, but you may experience:

- ü Bladder infection, bladder discomfort, urinary frequency, blood/debris in the urine. This can last for two days.
- ü Flu-like symptoms; fever, chills, tiredness.
- ü Painful joints, muscle pain, skin rash.
- ü A cough.
- ü Nausea/vomiting.

It is important that you **tell your doctor straight away** if you have any of these symptoms or have a high temperature for more than 48 hours.

## Taking other medication:

Please inform the Urology Doctor and Nurse if you are taking antibiotics.

## What should I do before my treatment?

You should try to reduce your fluid intake for at least **2- 4 hours** before your BCG treatment - particularly if you tend to pass urine frequently.

Please bring a urine sample to your appointment.

## What happens at each treatment?

On your first BCG treatment you will be asked to stay for 2 hours.

You will be asked to empty your bladder before treatment.

A catheter will be passed into your bladder, to remove any remaining urine and to put the BCG into your bladder, the catheter is then removed.

You must not pass urine for 2 hours or as long as you can hold.

## What do I do after each treatment?

Pass urine as normal into a toilet after 2 hours. Men are advised to sit down to avoid the drug splashing onto the skin.

Wash hands with soap and water each time after passing urine for 6 hours after your treatment

## All the urine you pass for 6 hours after treatment should be treated as

**contaminated.** Disinfect the toilet with 2 cups of undiluted household bleach; leave this for 15 minutes before flushing. Ensure no one uses the toilet whilst it is being disinfected.

It is best not to have sexual intercourse for at least 24 hours after each BCG treatment. Use a condom for intercourse, throughout the course of your BCG treatment and for several weeks after treatment has been completed. Women should use additional birth control to avoid becoming pregnant.

## What happens next?

On completion of your BCG induction treatment please check with your urology nurse the date of your next cystoscopy and when you are to return for your maintenance BCG treatment.

**Further Information:**

**Macmillan Cancer Support**

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

Telephone: 08088080000

**Fight Bladder Cancer**

<http://fightbladdercancer.co.uk>

Telephone: 01844 351621

**Contact us:**

If you would like any further information or help,  
please contact the Urology Nurses,

Telephone: **01803 655009/656204**

(Monday – Friday, 09.00hrs – 17.00hrs).



**PATIENT  
INFORMATION**

**BCG treatment for non-  
muscle invasive  
bladder cancer.**