

# NIH Clinical Center Patient Education Materials

## Intravesical Chemotherapy: Chemotherapy into the Bladder for Bladder Cancer

### **Before the treatment:**

- Limit your fluid intake 4-6 hours before you arrive at the hospital. Do not take diuretics (e.g. hydrochlorothiazide, furosemide, etc.), and avoid caffeinated beverages the morning of your treatment.
- When you arrive at the hospital, you will be asked to provide a urine sample.
- After the urine sample, do not empty your bladder again before arriving in the treatment area and seeing your nurse.

### **During the treatment:**

- You will lie in a bed, and your nurse will insert a Foley catheter into your bladder.
- The medication will be put into your bladder through the Foley catheter.
  - For some patients, the Foley catheter will be removed immediately after the medication is given
  - For other patients, the Foley catheter will be removed after 1-2 hours, and you will be permitted to go home
- You will be asked to remain in the Day Hospital for the duration of the treatment and to empty your bladder before you go home.

### **After the treatment:**

- Drink plenty of fluids to flush the medication out of your bladder.
- For 6 hours after treatment:
  - Double flush the toilet.
  - Wash your hands after urinating.
- Men should urinate in a seated position to avoid splashing.
- Children, people with weakened immune systems, and pregnant women should not come in contact with the contaminated urine.
- Condoms are advised for sexual intercourse for 48 hours following treatment in order to prevent contaminating your partner with chemotherapy.

### **Side Effects**

Symptoms usually begin 4 to 6 hours after treatment and lasts for 24-72 hours. These symptoms can include:

- Urinary frequency and/or urgency
- Dysuria (pain when urinating) is common with the first urination after treatment. You may take Tylenol or ibuprofen to relieve symptoms after checking with your doctor.
- Hematuria (blood in the urine)
- Fatigue
- For the drug BCG, flu-like symptoms (low grade fever, chills, body aches, and/or general discomfort) can occur within 24 hours after treatment. You may take Tylenol or ibuprofen to relieve symptoms after checking with your doctor.

### **Call your physician if you have:**

- Severe urinary side effects such as burning or pain on urination, urgency or frequency of urination, or blood in the urine
- Joint pain, cough, or skin rash
- Temperature greater than 101°F or higher
- Any questions or concerns

**Important phone numbers:**

- 3SE Day Hospital: 301-451-1152
- NIH Page Operator: 301-496-1211, ask for the Urology Fellow On-call for NCI. If you do not receive a call back in 30 minutes, call again.

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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**National Institutes of Health Clinical Center**

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Questions about the NIH Clinical Center?

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