



BCG Treatments

Bacillus Calmette-Guerin or BCG is a treatment that was originally created as a vaccine for tuberculosis. It is currently used to trigger the natural immune system to fight bladder cancer. This treatment may be used to help prevent the progression of cancer invading the muscle wall of the bladder and to decrease the chances of bladder tumor recurrence.

This treatment may be started about a month after a TURBT or Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor. Typically the treatment is given once a week for 6 weeks right in our office. Depending on your specific situation it can subsequently be given in 3 weekly maintenance doses in conjunction with a cystoscopy to view the inside of the bladder.

There is no special preparation for this treatment. You will need to come to your appointment able to leave a urine sample; we will run a urinalysis to ensure you do not have an infection. The treatments won't be given if you have a urinary tract infection.

The Procedure

- A catheter will be inserted into your bladder to fully empty any residual urine, and the medicine will be instilled through the catheter. You will be able to leave right after the treatment is given.
- The medication should be held in your bladder for 2 hours for best results.
- You must be careful about where and when you empty your bladder after receiving the BCG treatment. BCG is a weakened, not dead, form of the bacteria, therefore can be spread to others. In order to reduce the risk of spreading you should follow these steps.
 1. Sit on the toilet sit to urinate
 2. Immediately after urinating add 2 cups of undiluted bleach to toilet and close the lid.
 3. Let the bleach sit for 15 min before flushing, to disinfect the toilet.
 4. Drink plenty of water to flush any remaining BCG out of bladder.
 5. Disinfect the toilet with 2 cups of undiluted chlorine bleach for 15 min each time you urinate for the 6 hours after treatment.

Important things to remember

1. Plan for using contraception, such as a condom for 48 hours after the treatment is given.
2. Call the office with any fever over 101° F, rash, prolonged cough, or joint pain. This may indicate a serious reaction to the BCG treatment.

Common Side Effects

- Urine frequency
- Painful urination
- Blood in urine
- Flu like symptoms such as tiredness, achiness and an increased temperature.