

BCG/Interferon Treatment

What is BCG?

BCG stands for Bacillus Calmette-Guerin solution. It is a weakened bacterium normally used in tuberculosis vaccines. This solution stimulates the immune system to fight cancer cells in the bladder.

What is Interferon?

Interferon is a natural chemical made by your body which can be artificially produced. When mixed with BCG, it helps treat bladder cancer by stimulating the body's immune system to fight cancer cells.

Treatment Schedule:

Treatments are scheduled in blocks of six (6) appointments approximately one week apart. After the initial block of treatments, there is a resting period of up to six (6) weeks before a cystoscopy is performed to evaluate the status of the bladder. Subsequent course of treatment will be discussed at that time.

Day of the Treatment:

Avoid excessive coffee (1/2 cup is fine). Decrease fluid intake before your treatment as you will need to hold your bladder for two (2) hours after the procedure.

What to expect:

A small catheter will be inserted into the bladder. The bladder will be drained and approximately 2 oz. of medicine will be placed in your bladder and the catheter will be removed.

- ❖ You will be requested to hold your urine for two (2) hours after the treatment
- ❖ Try to take a walk after the treatment. Walking will assist in moving the medicine around in your bladder
- ❖ If you are unable to walk, rolling side to side and/or back and forth in a laying position for 20 minutes will also assist in moving the medicine around in your bladder
- ❖ If your treatment consists of BCG, pour ½ cup of bleach into the toilet bowl after your first voiding, wait 15 minutes then flush the toilet. This will dispel the BCG bacteria
- ❖ You may leave the office as soon as the treatment is completed
- ❖ Several days following the treatment, increase fluid intake to flush the bladder of medication

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BCG/Interferon Treatment (cont.)

Common Reactions:

You may experience mild flu-like symptoms such as aches, chills, or low grade fever. These symptoms are very common and can be treated with Tylenol or Ibuprofen and may last 6-24 hours.

You may also experience blood in the urine for up to 24 hours after your treatment. Increase fluid intake and call the office if this occurs longer than 24 hours.

Rare Side Effect:

In very rare cases a high fever with shaking chills may be experienced. If this occurs **call the office IMMEDIATELY at 508-771-9550**. If this occurs after business hours or on the weekends go to the **EMERGENCY ROOM**.

If the side effects worsen with each successive appointment, please communicate this with the provider as an adjustment of the medication dose or change in medication may be required.

If you should develop a UTI or Urinary Tract Infection – burning, frequent urination, urgency, foul odor in your urine; or you see blood in the urine **CALL** the office so we may obtain a urine culture and assess your future treatments.

Please feel free to call the office at any time if you have questions or concerns about your treatment. You will be scheduled weekly to see your provider for each of these treatments. Please communicate any questions or observations at these appointments so we may better understand any concerns you may have.



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