BCG Instillations

BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guerin) is a weakened form of tuberculosis bacteria. It helps the body's immune system attack cancer cells. BCG has been used to treat early-stage bladder cancer since 1990.

About BCG

- It is placed directly into the bladder.
- It does not enter your bloodstream.
- It is a common treatment for bladder cancer that has not invaded the muscle wall of the bladder.
- It is often used for patients who have high-grade tumors.
- Treatment is done once a week for 6 weeks.

Bladder Instillation

A procedure to put fluid and medicines into your bladder using a catheter.

Before Treatment

- **Do not** drink fluids for at least four hours before your treatment.
- **Do not** have any immunizations within 2 weeks of instillations.
- Let the clinic know if you have developed a fever of 101 or greater before your next scheduled appointment.
- Please be on time for your treatment. You will give a urine sample upon arrival or day before at lab.
- Hold diuretics on the day of instillation.

During Treatment

A nurse will put a catheter through your urethra (urine channel) and into your bladder.

The nurse will place the medicine into your bladder through the catheter using a syringe.

The catheter will be removed after the medicine is put in your bladder. Go directly home after treatment.

You will try to keep this medicine in your bladder for 2 hours. **Do not** urinate, if possible.

After Treatment

Once you have kept the medicine in your bladder for two hours or as long as you were able then you will:

- Sit down on the toilet to urinate and empty your bladder.
- After urinating, pour 1-2 cups of household bleach (like Clorox®) into the toilet.
- Let the medicine and bleach stay in the toilet for 15 minutes before flushing.
- Repeat this process every time you urinate for the next 6 hours.
- Wash your hands and genital areas fully with mild soap after you urinate.
- After you empty your bladder the first time, drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day. This will help flush the medicine out of your bladder.
- **Do not** have sexual intercourse for 48 hours after treatment.

Common Symptoms After Treatment
It is common to experience the following symptoms:

- Burning with urination
- Urgency and frequency of urination
- Blood or blood clots in the urine
- Fatigue

Symptoms will usually last 24-48 hours and should start to improve after that.

When to Call
Call the clinic to speak with a clinic procedure nurse if you are experiencing:

- Fever of 101 or greater
- Chills
- Flu-like symptoms

You will be scheduled for a cystoscopy procedure every 3 months for up to two years after treatment.

You may have maintenance treatments after your initial six instillation treatments. A nurse will discuss this with you in more detail.

Who to Call
Urology Clinic
600 Highland Ave., Madison, WI
(608) 263-8739

1 South Park Urology Clinic
Madison, WI
(608) 287-2900

EMC Urology Clinic
(608) 914-1112

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 1/2025 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#8393.