



# urological surgical associates

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## **BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin)**

BCG is a form of immune therapy used to treat and prevent recurrent superficial bladder cancer.

The medication is typically administered once a week for 6-8 wks. It can also be administered as maintenance (the intervals to be determined by your physician). The medication will be placed into your bladder through a catheter (small rubber tube). Each time you have a treatment, we will take a urine sample to check for signs of infection and blood in the urine. You will also receive an antibiotic injection to prevent infection.

## **PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR BCG**

1. Report to us if you have a fever, suspected infection, or if you are presently taking antibiotics prior to a treatment because your doctor may delay your treatment.
2. Avoid fluids 4 hours prior to a treatment.
3. Avoid intake of caffeine in food and/or drinks for 4 hrs before a treatment.
4. Empty your bladder before a treatment.
5. **Once the medication is instilled into your bladder you will hold the medication in your bladder for a total of 2 hrs, and then urinate into your toilet.**
6. **Pour 2 cups of household bleach into the toilet.**
7. **Let stand for 15-20 minutes then flush the toilet.**



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## **For the 6 hours after a treatment, be sure to do the following:**

### **\*\*REMEMBER BCG is a live but weakened virus\*\***

1. Use care when urinating to avoid contamination of hands or genitals thoroughly after urinating.
2. Males, as well as females should sit rather than stand to avoid contamination.

## **AFTER THE TREATMENT**

Increase your fluid intake for several hours following a treatment to flush our bladder.

If sexually active, either engage in protective intercourse (with a condom) or abstain for the immediate post treatment period.

## **SIDE EFFECTS**

Burning usually occurs with the first urination following treatment. Pyridium will be given to decrease this burning. This pill will turn your urine orange.

Report any severe urination effects including persistent pain or urination, urgency, frequency of urination, blood in urine, joint pain, rash or cough.

Follow-up care for bladder cancer is essential and life-long. Remember bladder cancer does not always come with obvious symptoms. Your doctor will do a cystoscopy (a lighted tube placed into your bladder to check for recurrent cancer) at regular intervals. In addition, your urine will be checked for signs of recurrent problems.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS SELECTIVE AND DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MEDICATION.

**CALL THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY WITH A TEMPERATURE OVER 101 DEGREES!!**