

## מידע למטופל

## שטיפות שלפוחית השתן בתכשיר BCG

## Patient information

**Bladder infusion with BCG preparation****Dear patient,**

You are about to undergo a series of bladder infusions with a BCG preparation.

We hope that the information presented here will help you to come prepared and calm for treatments.

**What is BCG preparation?**

BCG is a solution that contains a weakened bacterium of bovine (cow) tuberculosis called Bacillus Calmette–Guérin. The preparation was originally used as vaccine against tuberculosis. Later on, following developments in research, the vaccine was found to be effective in treating several bladder tumors as well.

The preparation induces the immune system to destroy cancer cells in the bladder. The treatment is not suitable for those who take drugs that modulate the immune system, or steroids.

The treatment is intended for superficial tumors, not for those that penetrated the muscle, and its purpose is to reduce the risk of the tumor's progress and recurrence.

The treatment is intended for a period of 1–3 years.

The first series is performed once a week for six weeks.

A month later you will be invited for an examination to evaluate the treatment's efficacy: cystoscopy and urine for cytology.

Further treatment will be determined according to the physician's decision and the examination's results.

**At home, before treatment:**

1. You may eat in the morning on treatment day. It is better to not drink (especially caffeinated drinks).
2. If you take diuretics—do not take them in the morning before treatment, but rather two hours afterwards.
3. Excess drinking and diuretics will dilute the preparation and require urination and premature emptying of the bladder.

**At the clinic, before treatment:**

As you arrive, following registration at the office of the Institute for Urology, you will be received by the nurse.

You will be asked several questions: it is important to report blood in the urine, fever or infection.

You will be requested to empty your bladder in the toilet, after which you will be shown to the treatment room.

You will be requested to undress and to wear a robe. Treatment takes place while you are lying in bed.

Following disinfection of the area, a catheter will be inserted into the bladder, through which the medication is inserted. You will not feel the inserting of the medication.

The treatment takes several minutes, after which the catheter is removed.

Try to avoid urinating for 1.5–2 hours so that the medication can come in contact with the bladder's walls for the required amount of time.

**Emptying the bladder after treatment:**

1. Make sure you do not leave the solution within the bladder for more than two hours.
2. After urinating for the first time, increase the amount of drinking in order to wash the bladder.
3. During the first six hours after treatment the toilet needs to be disinfected (after flushing) with bleach. Leave the bleach untouched for 15 minutes (this reduces the risk of exposing other people to BCG).
4. During six hours after treatment it is recommended to urinate while sitting in order to prevent the medication from touching other areas on your body. If such contact is made, rinse the area and your clothes with water.
5. To prevent infection, wash your hands well with soap after urinating.

**General guidelines:**

1. For seven days after treatment it is recommended to perform sexual activity only using a condom.
2. Women are advised to not conceive during the entire treatment.

**Possible side effects, usually 24–48 hours after treatment:**

1. High-frequency/urgency/burning upon urination.
2. Small amount of blood in the urine.
3. On treatment day you may experience a fever, discomfort, fatigue and malaise that resembles the flu. You may take pills to reduce the fever.
4. Joint pain, nausea, vomiting, headaches, dizziness, cough, rash.
5. It is important to notify the team in case of prolonged burning, urinary retention, joint pain, cough, skin redness, nausea and vomiting. Contact us during work hours.

We are here for you  
026555630 between 8–15  
Wishing you good health and  
speedy recovery,  
Institute for Urology staff

- Go to ER in case of:
- Significant and/or increasing bleeding
  - Fever above 38.5
  - Shivers