

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for certain types of bladder cancer.
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (buh-SIL-uhs kal-MET gay-RIN): Tice BCG (TYSS BEE-SEE-JEE) • This treatment is often called “BCG”.	Uses a weakened bacterium to boost the immune system, helping the body fight off cancer cells.	Injection into a catheter directly into your bladder (intravesicular) that is left there for 2 hours. During this time your care team may change your position about every 15 minutes to help the treatment reach all surfaces of your bladder.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your treatment typically has 2 parts: induction and maintenance.

Induction

- BCG is given once a week for 6 weeks.
- If needed, your care team may recommend a second 6-week induction course.

Treatment Name	Induction: Week 1 of Treatment							Week 2
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 1
BCG	✓							✓

Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

Maintenance

- BCG is given once a week for 3 weeks at months 4, 7, 10, 13, and 19 (total of 15 maintenance doses).
- Your care team may also recommend an additional maintenance course. BCG is sometimes given once a week for 3 weeks at months 25, 31, and 37 (total of 9 additional maintenance doses).

Treatment Name	Maintenance: Month of Treatment								
	Day 1	...	Day 8	...	Day 15	...	Day 22	...	Day 28
BCG	✓		✓		✓				

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, treatment appointments, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
Supportive care used to treat or prevent side effects		

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Bladder Problems	Description: Treatment can irritate the bladder lining. This may cause burning with urination (dysuria), blood in the urine (hematuria), frequent urination, and strong urges to urinate. Bladder symptoms usually begin 4 to 6 hours after instillation and may last 24 to 72 hours. Recommendations: • Drink plenty of fluids (unless your care team says otherwise) to help flush the bladder. • Avoid caffeine, alcohol, and spicy foods if they make symptoms worse. • Urinate gently and do not hold urine for long periods. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicine to help with bladder problems. Talk to your care team if you have: • Large amounts of blood in your urine or blood clots • Red-tinged urine lasting more than 24 hours after treatment • Severe or worsening pain when urinating • Inability to urinate or very little urine output • Fever, chills, or signs of infection • Fainting, dizziness, or very heavy bleeding
Flu-Like Symptoms	Description: Treatment may cause flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, muscle aches, tiredness, and mild cough. These often start within a day or two and usually go away in a few days. Recommendations: • Rest and drink plenty of fluids, unless your care team tells you not to. • If you have a fever, stay home and avoid close contact with others. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicine to treat symptoms. Talk to your care team if you have: • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Fever lasting for more than 3 days • Any signs of infection, such as a persistent cough, shortness of breath, or pain
Kidney Problems	Description: Treatment can cause kidney problems, including damage to the kidneys and decreased kidney function. Your care team will monitor your kidney function during treatment. Recommendations: • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine • Swelling of your ankles • Loss of appetite

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Infections (Boxed Warning)	BCG placed in the bladder can rarely spread beyond the bladder and cause serious or life-threatening infections. The risk is higher if the bladder is actively bleeding, after recent bladder procedures, with other infections, or if you take immune-suppressing medicines. Your care team may perform a purified protein derivative (PPD) test before you start treatment to rule out tuberculosis (TB). - Fever, chills, or night sweats - Severe or increasing belly, pelvic, or flank pain - Heavy or worsening blood in the urine or large blood clots - Persistent cough, coughing up blood, or breathing trouble - New unexplained weight loss, fatigue, or swollen lymph nodes - Any sudden severe illness after treatment, even months later

Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.

Intimacy, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body**. However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
 - If you are able to become pregnant:
 - Take a pregnancy test before starting treatment.
 - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment with BCG.
 - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
 - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment with BCG.
- It is **not known** if BCG is present in **breast milk**. Talk with your care team if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

- People who are immunosuppressed or immune-deficient should not prepare, administer, receive, or come into contact with BCG.
- Do not drink anything for 4 hours before your treatment.
- Go to the bathroom and empty your bladder just before you arrive for your treatment.
- When you first urinate after the treatment, you may feel a burning or stinging sensation. This is common.
- Sit down to urinate to avoid splashing.
- For the first 6 hours after treatment, disinfect your urine before flushing. Add an equal amount of household bleach to the toilet (for example, if the toilet bowl has one cup of water, add one cup of bleach), let it sit for 15 minutes, then flush. Follow any local safety rules on bleach use and ventilation.
- If using an incontinence pad, disinfect the pad only after it becomes soiled or has been used: pour bleach onto the used pad, allow it to soak, place it in a sealable plastic bag, and dispose of it in the trash.
- Drink plenty of water after the treatment to help flush your bladder.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after you use the bathroom.

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

pg. 5 of 6

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PES-654