

INTRAVESICAL BCG THERAPY

- BCG instillation into the urinary bladder is done for superficial bladder cancers (that are not involving muscle coat of the bladder).
 - BCG (Bacillus Calmette Guerin) is a live vaccine used originally for preventing Tuberculosis. In bladder cancer it stimulates killing of cancer cells and prevents tumor from coming back.
 - Reason for using BCG into the urinary bladder (intra-vesical) is that, even if all visible tumor has been removed by surgery, microscopic disease may remain behind from which new tumor can develop.
 - Before BCG therapy is begun, all visible tumor in your bladder would have been removed by Trans-Urethral endoscopic Resection (TUR-BT).
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- Intra-vesical BCG is started 2 weeks after surgery. One instillation per week for six weeks, is the usual initial course of BCG also known as induction course of BCG.
 - Additional courses of BCG may be administered upto 3 yrs every 6 monthly for 3 instillations at each course over 3 weeks, depending upon your disease status. These additional courses are known as maintenance course of BCG.
 - Before each BCG course is begun, cystoscopy and urine cytology will be performed to ensure disease control.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BCG INSTILLATION:

- To prevent dilution of BCG and thereby reducing its efficacy, limit fluid consumption to less than 250ml (1 glass) 4 hours before instillation.
- Empty your bladder just before BCG instillation.
- After instillation do not void for 2 hours to maintain contact of BCG with inside of your bladder for its effect.
- Avoid splashing of urine stream while voiding because it is a live vaccine and may cause harm if it comes in contact with other body parts.
- Wash your hands and genital area after voiding on the day of instillation.
- Sexual intercourse should be avoided in first 24 hours after BCG instillation.

PROCEDURE:

- A catheter is passed into the bladder through urethra. Any residual urine is drained and 80 ml solution of BCG is instilled and catheter is removed. You can go home after the procedure.

ADVISE:

- After BCG instillation low grade fever, frequency and urgency of urination, burning sensation, small amount of blood in urine may occur.
- Report to hospital immediately in case of profuse, continuous and persistent blood in urine, high grade fever ($>101F/38.5C$), cough and joint pain.