NHS
Calderdale and Huddersfield
NHS Foundation Trust

Urology Department

Intravesical BCG Therapy

Consultant _____

Specialist Nurse _____

Information for patients who are undergoing Intravesical BCG Therapy

What does your treatment involve?

Your Consultant has recommended you have this treatment for your bladder tumour. You have a type of bladder tumour that only affects the lining of the bladder and is therefore called a superficial bladder tumour. Bladder tumours are treated with surgery using a procedure called Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumour (TURBT).

All visible tumour can be removed internally through telescopic instruments. In addition to the surgery, extra treatment is given with BCG to eliminate small areas of tumour not visible at surgery and helps prevent your tumour recurring.

This extra treatment involves inserting a drug through a catheter, directly into your bladder, and is called “Intravesical Immunotherapy”.

compassionate care

Before you have your treatment:

Please ensure you tell the nurse:

- About any other treatment you are having for example, radiotherapy.
- If you are due to come into hospital for any other treatments which will coincide with this treatment.
- If you are feeling unwell or feel that you may have a urine infection.
- If you are passing a lot of blood in your urine.
- If you have had TB in the past.
- About any medication you are taking as they may not be able to be taken whilst you are having BCG treatment.

You may not be given BCG treatment if:

- You have a urine infection
- You have blood in your urine
- You have TB
- You have problems with your immune system
- You have HIV
- You are pregnant or breast feeding

Are there side effects from the treatment?

- This is a local treatment and will only affect your bladder.
- You may feel that you need to pass urine more frequently than normal for 2-3 days. This is due to mild irritation from the drug and also inflammation at the site of the recent removed bladder tumour. You can help to relieve these symptoms by drinking 2-3 litres of fluid on the day you have your treatment which will dilute your urine.
- Although the drug used works in a similar way to chemotherapy, you will not experience the side effects associated with other forms of chemotherapy, such as hair loss, nausea or vomiting, because the effects of the drug is localised in your bladder.
- Very rarely develop a reaction to the drug, which requires treatment with antibiotics. This is having a high temperature, shaking and flu like symptoms. If this happens ring the Urology Ward and tell them you are having this treatment.

What happens after the treatment has been given?

When the treatment is finished. You will be asked to pass urine into the toilet. You are advised to sit down to pass urine to reduce splashing. BCG is potentially infectious and therefore 2 bleach tablets need to be placed in the toilet bowl. You are advised to wait 15 minutes before flushing following voiding after treatment to allow the bleach treatment to work. Leave the bathroom window open. It is important to wash your hands thoroughly with warm soapy water. If you have difficulty getting to the toilet on time or feel you are not emptying your bladder adequately inform the nurse caring for you and a disposable receptacle will be provided. If you need to pass urine again within 6 hours you should continue the same precautions and use bleach in the toilet bowl.

Immunotherapy drugs may irritate your skin if splashed on it. If you get urine on your skin you must wash the affected area with warm soapy water.

The drug will remain active for approximately 6 hours after it has been given so you must continue to be careful when going to the toilet and when washing yourself to prevent urine coming into contact with your skin and clothes. If you do spill urine onto your clothing, you must wash them separately to anything else. You can eat and drink whatever you want and you do not need to take special precautions with crockery, as they will not be affected be the treatment.

Can I drive?

Your ability to drive will not be affected by this drug.

Are my family and friends at risk?

No. Normal social contact will not result in contamination. You do not need to restrict your movements and normal routine at all provided you feel fit enough.

What about sexual intercourse?

You must avoid having sexual intercourse for 3 days following the treatment. It is advisable to use a condom both during the course of treatment and for 1 week after the treatment has finished. This treatment is not known to affect fertility.
However, those wishing to have children should avoid conception for three months after the treatment has finished.

What to watch out for:

- Blood in the urine
- Fever and chills
- A frequent urge to urinate
- Joint pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Painful urination
- Cough
- Skin rash
- Severe fatigue

If you develop any of these symptoms please contact the Day Procedure Unit on 01422 223749 for further advise.

The information contained in the leaflet is meant to answer commonly asked questions and is not intended to replace discussions with your doctor and nurses.

If you have any more questions you can either discuss them with your Consultant at your next clinic appointment, or the Day Procedure Unit on 01422 223749.

Out of hours contact Urology Ward on 01484 355263.
An answer phone is available out of hours.

Use this space below to write any questions you may have:

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Sister
Day Procedure Unit
Calderdale Royal Hospital

Telephone No. (01422) 223749

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں.

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