

Bladder Irrigation Treatment for Bladder Cancer

Bladder irrigation is used to put the medicine into your bladder to treat your cancer. Different medicines are used for this type of treatment. Your nurse will give you information about the medicine being used for your treatment.

When will I be treated?

Before each treatment, your doctor may check a urine sample to see if you have a urinary tract infection (UTI). Symptoms of a UTI may include:

- Pain or burning with urination
- Back pain
- Frequent urinating
- Having the urge to urinate, but not being able to
- Blood in your urine

It is important to tell a member of your health care team if you have any of these symptoms. If there is an infection, your treatment may be rescheduled. Your doctor will give you antibiotics to treat your UTI. After your urine test shows no sign of infection, you will be given your treatment.

What happens when I get my treatment?

Once in the exam room, you will need to undress from the waist down and lie on the bed or table. You will be given a sheet to cover yourself. If you are a female, you will need to lie down with your knees bent and your legs apart.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

How is the medicine put into my bladder?

The urethra is the tube that carries urine from your bladder to the outside of your body. Your nurse will use a brown-colored cleansing solution called Betadine to clean your urethra. A thin, flexible tube (catheter) is put into your urethra to drain the urine out of your bladder.

Your medicine is attached to the catheter and flows through the catheter into your bladder. After the medicine is in your bladder, the catheter is removed.

What happens after my treatment?

Your doctor will give you special instructions that you will need to follow. You will be told when it is okay to empty your bladder after the bladder irrigation.

Ask your nurse for the patient education handout [Home Safety for Patients Receiving Cancer Therapy](#).

Will other treatments be needed?

Your doctor will talk with you about how often your treatments need to be done. It is common for these treatments to be repeated:

- 1 time each week for 3 weeks
- 1 time each week for 6 weeks

When should I call my doctor?

Call your doctor's office if you have any of the following problems:

- Blood in your urine
- Fever and chills
- Rashes
- Increased urination
- Nausea and vomiting
- Painful urination

Who to call:
