Bladder Irrigation Treatment for Bladder Cancer

Your doctor and you have decided to use medicine to treat your bladder cancer. Bladder irrigation is used to put the medicine into your bladder. 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. Symptoms of a urinary tract infection may include:

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

Report any of these symptoms to a member of your health care team. If there is an infection, your treatment may be postponed. Your doctor will give you antibiotics to treat your infection. After your urine test shows no sign of infection, you will be given your treatment.

What happens when I get my treatment?

When you come to the clinic, you will be put in an exam room. You will be asked to undress from the waist down, and use a sheet to cover yourself. You will be asked to lie down on the bed or table. If you are a female, you will need to lie down with your knees bent and your legs apart.
How is the medicine put into the bladder?
The urethra is the tube that leads from your bladder to the outside. Your nurse will clean your urethra with a brown colored solution called Betadine. Betadine washes off easily after the procedure. A small tube (catheter) is put into the urethra to drain the urine out of your bladder.

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

Do I have to do anything special after my treatment?
Yes, you will be told when it is okay to empty your bladder after the bladder irrigation.

Your doctor will give you special instructions that you will need to follow after this treatment is given. A patient education handout on Medicine Exposure Precautions at Home is also available.

Will other treatments be needed?
Bladder irrigation is usually repeated once a week for six (6) weeks. However, your doctor may decide to do the treatment more or less often than this.

When should a health care professional be called?
Call your health care team for any of the following problems:
- Blood in your urine
- Fever and chills
- Rashes
- Increased urination
- Nausea and vomiting
- Painful urination

Who to call:

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