

Frequently asked questions

- Q. Why am I getting BCG treatment?
- A. BCG treatments are used for patients with bladder cancer. They are used as a therapy for and prevention against recurrent tumors in patients with non-invasive bladder cancer.
- Q. Can BCG treatment cause infection?
- A. The risk of getting a serious infection from the BCG treatment is 1%. However, the risk of a simple urinary infection is 10-20%.
- Q. What are the risks of BCG treatment?
- A. Risks include: infection, burning with urination, blood in urine, and allergic reaction.
- Q. Will I have difficulty holding my bladder?
- A. No—however, if you normally have difficulty holding your bladder before you begin treatment, inform your provider.
- Q. What if I can't hold my bladder before or after treatment?
- A. We can leave a catheter in during treatment to keep the medicine in your bladder for your appointment.

Notes



BCG Treatment

Bacillus Calmette-Guerin

What is BCG treatment?

BCG is a weakened form of a bacteria that has been shown to decrease the recurrence of bladder cancer. Medication containing BCG is used as a therapy for the prevention of recurrent tumors in patients with non-invasive bladder cancer.

BCG medication is administered through a catheter which is inserted in your urethra and passed into the bladder.

Preparing for BCG treatment

- **It is important to limit your fluid intake 4 hours before your appointment.**
- You may be asked to provide a urine sample at the time of your appointment.
- **If you think you have a bladder infection or have blood in your urine before your BCG treatment, please contact your doctor, as a serious infection could occur during treatment.**

During BCG treatment

First, a catheter is inserted into the urethra. You may feel mild discomfort. Then, the BCG medication is put into the catheter and flows into the bladder. You will feel a cool sensation when the BCG flows into the bladder.

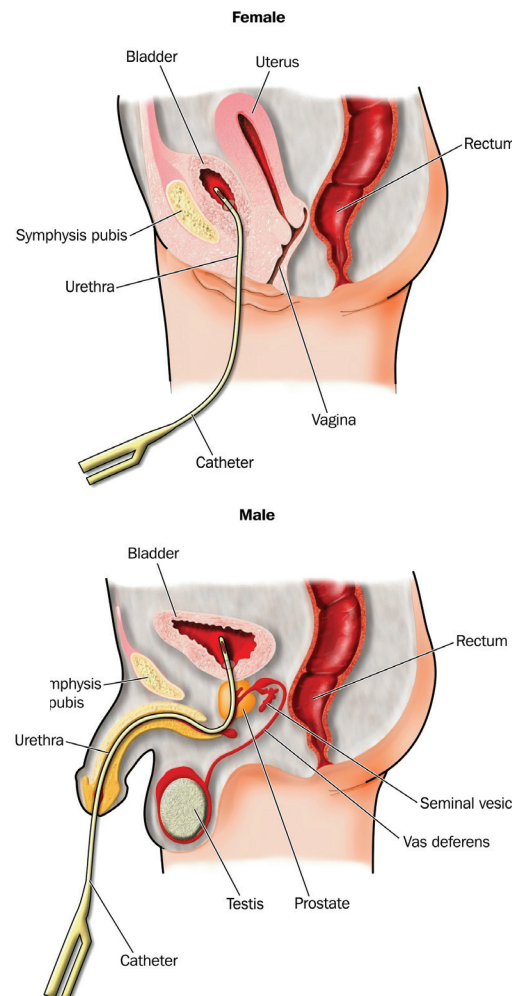
The BCG bacteria are only active for 6 hours. For this reason, **you must follow specific instructions for urination after each treatment.** You have to urinate. However, in most cases, the exam does not cause discomfort.

After BCG treatment

Refrain from urinating after BCG treatment for up to 2 hours to keep the BCG medication in your bladder as long as possible.

For 6 hours after each BCG treatment you must follow these instructions:

- Avoid using a public restroom at this time.
- While you urinate, sit down on the toilet to avoid splashing.
- After urinating, pour 2 cups of household bleach into the toilet, close the lid, and wait 15 minutes before flushing.
- Wipe down both sides of the lid and toilet seat with a bleach-soaked cloth and allow to dry. Throw the cloth away and use a new cloth for each urination.
- Wash your hands and genital area with soap and water after each urination.



It is also important to remember to:

- Drink plenty of water or other fluids for at least **6 hours after** each treatment.
- Avoid caffeine, alcohol, and spicy foods for the first **2 days after** your treatment.
- Remind all family and friends who may come in contact with your urine to wash their hands with soap and water.
- Avoid intercourse and oral sex for **2-3 days after** each treatment. We recommend using condoms during the course of BCG treatment and for **1-2 weeks after** your treatments are completed.

Post procedure symptoms

These symptoms are **normal** for up to 48 hours after your procedure:

- Small amount of blood in your urine
- Need to urinate very often
- Pain or burning when passing urine
- Discomfort in the genital area where the catheter was inserted
- Tiredness
- Flu-like symptoms
- Joint or muscle aches

These symptoms are **abnormal**—please call the Urology clinic if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Any of the above symptoms for more than 48 hours
- You are unable to pass urine for 6 hours or longer
- Lower stomach pain or bladder spasms get worse after 48 hours
- Fever of 101° F or higher
- Nausea and/or vomiting