

Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG)

Names	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) is the generic drug name. TheraCys® BCG and TICE® BCG are brand names. There may be other names for this medication.
Why Am I Being Given BCG and How Does it Work?	<p>This medication is used to treat bladder cancer.</p> <p>BCG is a weakened form of the tuberculosis bacteria. It does not directly kill cancer cells but it is thought to trigger your immune system, which then attacks the cancer cells in your bladder. It may also inhibit future tumor growth.</p>
How is BCG Administered?	<p>BCG is given by <i>intravesicular infusion</i>. This means that the BCG is placed directly into your bladder through a catheter (a thin, flexible tube) that is inserted into the bladder through your urethra.</p> <p>Before receiving BCG: Limit how much you drink for 6-10 hours before each treatment, and for 2 hours after each treatment. Avoid drinking for 4 hours before treatment. At other times, drink plenty of water. Empty your bladder before treatment begins.</p> <p>After the BCG is in place, the catheter is clamped to keep the medication in the bladder. You may be asked to change positions so that the BCG will reach all areas of the bladder. After about 2 hours, (your doctor will set your schedule), the clamp is removed, the BCG drains out of your bladder, and the catheter is removed.</p> <p>Treatments are usually given once a week for 6 weeks, then once a month for 6-12 months.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are allergic to BCG• have had a recent smallpox vaccination or a positive TB test• have an immune disorder, fever, any infections, or severe burns• are pregnant or breastfeeding <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, or supplements that you take.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Fatigue
- Painful, frequent, or urgent urination for 3 -5 days after treatment.
- Bladder irritation, burning, infection, or blood in your urine
- Flu symptoms: fever less than 101°F, chills, aches and pains
- Nausea, loss of appetite, and vomiting (less common)

Systemic BCG reaction is a rare but potentially serious side effect that can occur within a week of surgery or a traumatic catheterization. **It is very important you notify your doctor immediately if you have:**

- high fever (103°F) for more than 24 hours or a fever with chills
- confusion, dizziness, lightheadedness, or shortness of breath

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

Ask your doctor about how to prevent or manage urinary urgency or frequency; bladder spasms or pain; and nausea or vomiting.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations; or hives.

Please let us know if you go to the ER or are admitted to the hospital.

Call your doctor immediately if you have any sign of a systemic BCG reaction, listed above

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you experience nausea, vomiting, or fatigue that prevents you from eating or drinking.

What Else Should I Know About BCG?

- For 6 hours after each treatment:
 - ✓ Both men and women should sit down to urinate to avoid splashing the urine.
 - ✓ Any urine voided should be disinfected by pouring 2 cups of bleach into the toilet and then waiting 15 minutes before flushing.
 - ✓ Wash your genitals after urinating to avoid local skin irritation.
- Because BCG uses a live vaccine, men must always use a condom during sexual activity. Talk to your doctor for details.
- Do not get pregnant or father a child while receiving BCG.
- You should not have BCG treatment if you are using medicines that weaken your immune system such as prednisone.
- Tell your doctor if you have any changes in your urinary habits after having BCG treatments.
- If you would like more information about BCG, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.