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MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BCG

INSTILLATION OF BCG INTO THE BLADDER

BCG is a bacterial preparation of a strain called Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG). The medication was developed as a vaccine against tuberculosis but has been found useful in treating certain bladder cancers. Doctors have been using BCG for many years to treat and prevent recurrence of tumors in patients. BCG stimulates the immune system, the body's defense mechanism against disease. In order to work, BCG must be in direct contact with the tumor cells. That is why it is instilled – administered directly into the bladder – instead of being given by injection.

About Each BCG Administration:

The treatment may be uncomfortable but it usually isn't painful. The instillation – the pouring of the medicine into your bladder – takes only a few minutes. However, the medicine must stay in your bladder for 1 hour to be fully effective. The process itself is simple:

- Your genital area is cleaned with a sterile solution and you are draped with a sterile sheet
- A tube (a catheter) is passed through your urethra and into your bladder. Any urine that remains in your bladder can then be removed so that the BCG can easily touch all of the bladder lining.
- The BCG mixture is administered into your bladder through the catheter in most cases.
- The medication stays in your bladder for 1 hour. During that time, you will be lying down. Your position will be changed from time to time to make sure that the BCG is in contact with all parts of the lining of the bladder long enough to be effective.