

# Bacillus Calmette-Guerin BCG Live (TheraCys<sup>®</sup>, TICE<sup>®</sup>)

Bacillus Calmette-Guerin is a bacterial preparation used to treat bladder cancer.

## How Is It Given?

- by a tube in your bladder (bladder irrigation)

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### Common:

- need to urinate often
- painful urination
- blood in the urine
- flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, fatigue, muscle aches)

### Less common:

- bladder infection
- nausea (feel like throwing up) or vomiting (throwing up)
- headache or dizziness
- diarrhea (loose stools)
- reaction of high fever, chills, dizziness, confusion that lasts 1 to 2 days or longer. This can occur if you had bladder surgery, a biopsy or problems with a bladder catheter within one week before getting BCG.

## Special Notes

- Do not drink liquids 2 to 4 hours before each treatment. This will make it easier to hold the BCG in your bladder. Empty your bladder before each treatment.
- BCG is given by putting the clear liquid solution through a tube (urinary catheter) into your bladder. The tube is then taken out and you will need to hold the medicine in your bladder for 2 hours. If you are unable to hold it, tell your doctor or nurse.
- Your doctor may want you to lie flat for a while and change positions to help the BCG coat the lining of your bladder. After, you may walk and do your regular activities so the medicine can move around your bladder.
- Drink lots of fluids after a treatment for 24 hours to help flush the BCG from your bladder. Do not drink alcohol and caffeine on treatment days because they will irritate your bladder.
- If you have any changes in your medicines during BCG treatment, tell your nurse or pharmacist.

## ■ For the first 6 hours after each treatment:

- Sit down to urinate (men and women). Sitting down on the toilet avoids splashing urine. Urine that contains BCG may be unsafe if touched.
  - After urinating, pour 2 cups of bleach into the toilet. Keep the medicine and bleach mixture in the toilet for 15 minutes before flushing. Repeat this process every time you urinate.
  - Wash your hands and between your legs (genital area) well after urinating.
- Your treatments will likely be once a week for 6 weeks and then every few months, as your doctor orders.
- Some medicines interact with BCG. Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:
- any chemotherapy medicines
  - cyclosporin (Sandimmune<sup>®</sup>, Neoral<sup>®</sup>, Gengraf<sup>®</sup>)
  - prednisone or other steroid medicine
  - some antibiotics (Tequin<sup>®</sup>, Levaquin<sup>®</sup>, Cipro<sup>®</sup>, Rifampin<sup>®</sup>, azithromycin, tobramycin, gentamicin and erythromycin).
- You may have changes in your menstrual cycle or sperm count. Discuss birth control measures with your doctor. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine. If you are a woman, do not breastfeed during treatment.
- If you are a man, you can pass BCG to your partner during sex. Do not have sex for 48 hours after a treatment. Use a condom during sex during the 6 weeks of treatment **and** for 6 weeks after your last treatment.

## When To Call Your Doctor

### Call your doctor right away if you have:

- confusion
- dizziness
- problems breathing.

### Call your doctor if you have:

- pain or burning during urination (for more than 3 days)
- bright red blood or blood clots in the urine
- loss of urine (incontinence)
- severe urge to urinate (for more than 24 to 48 hours)
- fever, chills or extreme tiredness
- joint pain, coughing that will not stop, skin rash.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.