

**For the Patient: BCG**

Other names: Bacillus Calmette-Guerin,
OncoTICE®, IMMUCYST®

- **BCG** is a drug that is used to treat some types of skin cancer. It is a cloudy liquid that is injected into the skin.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to BCG before receiving BCG.
- Other drugs may **interact** with BCG. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of BCG.
- **Use** a condom or **abstain** from sex for **1 week** after treatment.
- It is not known if BCG may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with BCG. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Do not wash** or bathe the area where the BCG was injected for at least 12 hours.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with BCG before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Nausea does not usually occur with BCG.</p> <p>A flu-like illness may occur shortly after your treatment. You may have fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and joint aches. Flu-like symptoms usually disappear on their own.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day. • Fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer) which occurs more than a few days after treatment may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your doctor immediately.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Your skin may become red and itchy where the BCG was injected. This may become a small sore (ulcer) in 2-3 weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a normal and expected reaction which will slowly heal. • Leave it open to the air. • Keep it clean and dry. • Avoid infection by not scratching the area.
Swelling and tenderness may occur under your arms and in your groin two to three weeks after starting treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a normal and expected reaction that will go away after your treatment is finished.
Healed treatment sites may become red and itchy with each new treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a normal and expected reaction.
Hair loss does not occur with BCG.	

*Please ask your chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- **Fever with chills, headache, muscle and joint aches** that do not go away with acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) or that last longer than two to three days.
- Increased **redness, pain or pus** at the treatment site starting three weeks or more after your treatment.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR
