



## For the Patient: Interferon for bladder

Other names: Intron A®, Roferon A®

### BC Cancer Agency

- ***Interferon*** (in-ter-FEAR-on) is a drug that is used to treat many kinds of cancer. It is a man-made version of a substance your body produces naturally to fight infections and tumours. Interferon is a clear liquid that is given through a small tube into your bladder.
- ***Do not drink liquids*** for 2 hours before your treatment so your bladder will be empty.
- Your doctor or nurse inserts a ***catheter*** (small tube) into your bladder and drains out any urine. The interferon is given into your bladder by attaching a syringe to the catheter. The amount given is 50 mL (less than 2 ounces). The catheter is then removed.
- You will be asked to ***hold*** the interferon in your bladder for as long as possible up to ***2 hours*** after each treatment.
  - Be sure to lie on your stomach for the first 15 minutes after treatment.
  - After lying on your stomach you may be advised to lay on your back for 15 minutes, then on your side for 15 minutes, and then on your other side for 15 minutes.
  - In other cases, after lying on your stomach for 15 minutes you may be advised to get up and move around. In either case this makes sure that the interferon completely covers the inside of your bladder.
- Unless otherwise advised by your doctor you should drink lots of liquids for the next 24 hours. Try to drink at least twelve 250 ml (8 oz.) glasses per day and urinate frequently. This helps prevent bladder problems.
- If you are asked to transport your interferon from your pharmacy to your doctor's office, ***store*** it in the refrigerator out of the reach of children. Do not shake interferon vigorously, as it may be damaged. Do not freeze.
- Other drugs such as prednisone (Deltasone®), dexamethasone (Decadron®, Dexasone®, Hexadrol®), ASA (Aspirin®), ibuprofen (Advil®), or vaccines may ***interact*** with interferon. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- The ***drinking of alcohol*** (in small amounts) will not affect the safety or usefulness of interferon.

