

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) (Tice BCG)

About This Drug

Bacillus calmette-guerin (BCG) is used to treat bladder cancer. It is given into the bladder (intravesical).

Possible Side Effects

- Effects on the bladder. This drug may cause irritation and bleeding in the bladder. You may have blood in your urine. These effects usually appear 4-6 hours after your treatment and may last 24-72 hours.
- Fever
- Pain or burning when you pass urine
- Feeling like you have to pass urine often
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle/joint aches, and tiredness

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 20% or greater of patients treated with bacillus calmette-guerin (BCG). All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other drugs in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Because this drug is a type of bacteria, severe infections can happen. On rare occasions, these infections may be life-threatening.
- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this drug may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this drug. You should get urgent medical treatment.**

Important Information

- It is recommended to urinate in a seated position in order to avoid splashing of urine.
- For 6 hours after your treatment, it is recommended that you put an amount of bleach equal to the amount of urine in your toilet and let it sit for 15 minutes before flushing in order to disinfect your urine.

- Drink plenty of fluids after your treatment to flush your bladder; you may have some burning with the first urine after your treatment.
- Wash your hands after using the bathroom, your caretakers should not handle your urine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- This drug may also be present in the saliva, tears, sweat, stool, vomit, semen, and vaginal secretions. Talk to your doctor and/or your nurse about the necessary precautions to take during this time.

Treating Side Effects

- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of BCG with food.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known drug interactions with BCG. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle/joint aches, and tiredness
- Cough
- Pain or burning when passing urine; blood in urine
- New rash
- General discomfort or a feeling of being unwell (malaise)
- Decreased urine, difficulty urinating, or feeling like you have to pass urine often
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** It is not known if this drug may harm an unborn child. For this reason, be sure to talk with your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while receiving this drug. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.



- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this drug passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this drug because this drug may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

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