

# **Bladder Chemotherapy - Mitomycin Treatment** (page 1 of 2)

Mitomycin is commonly used to treat cancer found on the bladder lining, called superficial bladder cancer.

## **What is Mitomycin?**

Mitomycin is a drug which is used to destroy the cancerous cells. When put into the bladder it attacks the cancerous cells but does little damage to the healthy tissue.

## **Is there anything I need to do before the treatment?**

You should not drink for four hours before the treatment. However, one drink may be taken with breakfast. By restricting the amount you drink the kidneys will produce less urine which prevents dilution of the Mitomycin when it is in the bladder. It also makes it easier for you to keep the treatment in the bladder for the necessary time.

If you normally take water tablets (diuretics) take them after your Mitomycin session rather than first thing in the morning on treatment days.

## **How long does it take?**

The course of treatment will usually be one dose given weekly over a six week period as an outpatient; further courses or maintenance doses may be given.

Your first appointment may take up to 30 minutes.

Future appointments may only take 15 minutes and you should be able to go home once the treatment is given. You should feel well enough to drive yourself home after the treatment. However, if you prefer, you may arrange for a friend or relative to collect you.

## **Who gives the treatment?**

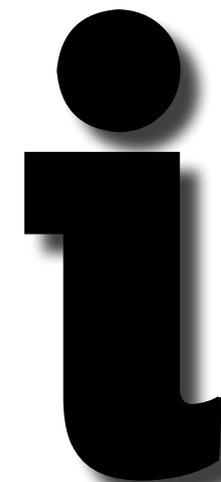
One of the Urology Specialist Nurses, (Daphne Phillips, Kate Chadwick or Pauline Manktelow). The treatment is carried out in the Urology Centre.

## **What will happen when I arrive?**

The Urology Specialist Nurse will greet you and explain the procedure. You will be asked to pass urine to empty your bladder and provide a sample for testing. A catheter tube is passed into the bladder. The Mitomycin, which is in 40mls of fluid, is put into the bladder via the catheter which is then removed. Once the catheter has been removed you may go home. The treatment needs to remain in the bladder for 1 hour. It is during this time that the treatment works to destroy the cancer cells or prevent them from

## **Urology Nurses**

**Tel: 01722 336262 ext. 4866**



If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: [customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk)

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: [patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk) if you would like a reference list.

recurring. After an hour you must empty your bladder to remove the drug.

## **What to do after each treatment.**

For 6 hours after the treatment you need to do the following:

- men need to sit rather than stand to urinate to prevent splashing
- carefully wash your hands and skin areas that may have been in contact with the treatment.

For 24 hours after the treatment:

- drink plenty of fluids to flush the remaining drug out of the bladder.
- use a condom to prevent irritation to your partner, if you are sexually active.

## **Are there any possible side effects?**

The drug goes directly into the bladder and the common side effects are only on the bladder itself.

You will not lose your hair.

You may find that you experience need to pass urine urgently and more frequently

You may also have some bleeding and discomfort.

Drinking plenty of fluids will help. If any of these symptoms last for longer than 24 hours, or if your urine smells offensive, you should contact your G.P. If an infection is confirmed, please contact us before your next treatment so that we can decide whether it is appropriate to continue the treatment.

## **What happens after the course is completed?**

About 6 weeks after treatment has been completed you will be sent an appointment for a cystoscopy under general anaesthetic. This is an examination of your bladder, using a telescope, to assess the effect of the treatment. Further appointments will be arranged after that procedure.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact the Urology Specialist Nurses if you have any worries or queries.

Telephone number 01722 336262 ext 4866.