

## Department of Urology

# About Mitomycin C Bladder Treatment

Your doctor has explained to you that you have a bladder condition called ‘superficial bladder cancer’. He may have described this condition as being like ‘warts’ or ‘growths’ in your bladder. These growths may recur and in order to reduce the likelihood of this happening your doctor has prescribed a drug treatment for your bladder. The purpose of this leaflet is to tell you about this treatment.

### What treatment am I having?

Your doctor has prescribed a drug called Mitomycin C which is an anti-cancer drug and works by interfering with the ability of the cancer cells to multiply. Your doctor will usually prescribe weekly treatments for six weeks.

### How is the treatment given?

The nurse carrying out your treatment passes a fine tube called a catheter into your bladder. After draining any urine out of your bladder, the drug is introduced into your bladder through the catheter. The catheter is usually then removed and you are asked to hold the drug in your bladder for at least one hour, and if possible for two hours. You will be expected to remain in hospital for this time, during which you will be asked to wait in a designated area. After your treatment you will be asked to empty your bladder into the bedpan or urinal provided. You will be offered a cup of tea before you go home and the nurse will confirm your next treatment date before you leave the hospital.

If no difficulties have been experienced during the first treatment, the nurse may allow you to go home directly after the medication has been put into your bladder for the remainder of the course. If you are allowed to go home, please do not have any drinks until you have held the drug for the prescribed period of time.

### What side effects may I experience?

Because the drug goes directly into your bladder and not into your blood stream, there are relatively few side effects. However you may experience pain or burning when you pass urine, blood in your urine or having to pass urine more frequently. A few people may develop a skin rash. If you are concerned about the effect the treatment is having on you, ring the hospital on the numbers overleaf or contact your GP.

### **What should I do before each treatment?**

Do not drink any fluids for four hours before your treatment. However you should take your routine medicines with a minimal amount of water. You may have your breakfast and/or lunch. Have a bath or shower before attending the hospital for your treatment.

### **How should I look after myself afterwards?**

For the first six hours after each treatment you should take special precautions when you pass urine. Men should sit down to pass urine to avoid splashing. Wash your hands and genital area with soap and water each time you pass urine. If any urine spills onto your skin, wash with soap and water. Do not use moisturisers. Drink plenty of fluids for the rest of the day of the treatment to flush any remaining drug out of your system. If you are sexually active, the male partner should use a condom during sexual activity for the first forty-eight hours after each treatment

You should take care to prevent children coming into contact with the drug or with urine contaminated with the drug.

### **Follow up:**

A further cystoscopy of your bladder will be carried out 6-8 weeks after your course of treatment is complete. You will be notified of this by post in due course.

### **Useful contact numbers:**

**Ward 33:** 024 76 965380

If you have any questions or concerns about your diagnosis or treatment and would like to discuss them, please contact:

**Sister Claire Milligan:** 024 76965149

### **National Helplines / Cancer Support Groups:**

#### **Cancerbackup**

Main Entrance  
University Hospital  
Clifford Bridge Road  
Coventry  
024 76966052

[www.cancerbackup.org.uk](http://www.cancerbackup.org.uk)

A nurse who offers support, information and practical advice on all aspects of cancer and treatment.

## Patient Information

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The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 76965149 and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

### **Document History**

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