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Mitomycin Treatment for Superficial **Bladder Cancer**

Urology Department



Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email patient.advice@asph.nhs.uk. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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Are there any possible side effects?

Because the drug goes directly into the bladder, the common side effects are on the bladder itself. You will not lose your hair (this is a common worry). You may have increased frequency and urgency to pass urine. You may also experience a small amount of bleeding and discomfort when passing urine. Drinking plenty of fluids will help. If any of these symptoms persist for more than 24 hours, or you are passing offensive smelling urine you should contact your G.P. or the Urology Nurses because you may have a water infection.

We hope these details are of help to you. If you have any worries or queries, do not hesitate to contact the Urology Nursing team who are available 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

Telephone No: 01932 722770 or 01932 722387.

A separate leaflet is available to explain superficial bladder cancer. If you have not had one please ask.

Mitomycin Treatment for Superficial Bladder Cancer

MITOMYCIN is a drug commonly used to treat superficial bladder cancer. This leaflet answers questions many people ask about the treatment.

What is Mitomycin?

Mitomycin is a drug which destroys cancer cells. It also helps prevent cancer cells from coming back. When put into the bladder it attacks cancerous cells but does little damage to the healthy tissue.

Is there anything I need to do before treatment?

You should not drink too much fluid for 8 hours before the treatment. One glass of water may be taken with breakfast. If you drink as little as possible the kidneys will produce less urine and thus prevent the dilution of the Mitomycin when it is in your bladder. It will also make it easier for you to retain the treatment in the bladder for the necessary amount of time. If you normally take water tablets (diuretics) take them after your Mitomycin session rather than first thing in the morning for your treatment days.

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Where do I come for the treatment?

You will be asked to come to the Urology Treatment Area once a week in the morning for 6 weeks. You will be given an appointment time.

How long does the treatment take?

You will be in hospital for about 1½ to 2 hours. We try hard to keep to your appointment, but sometimes unavoidable delays do occur. You should feel well enough to drive yourself home after the treatment. However, if you are elderly or infirm, please arrange for a friend or relative to collect you.

Who gives the treatment?

The treatment is given by Jeanine Richards, Wayne Christie or Vicky Powell the Urology Nurses.

What will happen when I arrive?

You will be shown to a seat in the waiting area and when a bed becomes available you will be asked to empty your bladder and change into a gown.

How is the treatment given?

A catheter tube is passed into the bladder. The Mitomycin which is in 40mls of fluid, is then passed via the catheter into the bladder. The catheter is then removed. You are asked not to pass urine for the next hour. It is during this time that the treatment is working to destroy the cancerous cells or prevent them from recurring. During this hour you will be asked to lie for 15 minutes each on your back, front, left side and right side. If at any time during the hour you feel that you are desperate to pass water then call a nurse who will help you out to the toilet, or bring you a urinal. Please bring something with you that will help pass the time, e.g. books, magazines, personal stereo etc. At the end of the hour use one of the toilets to pass urine (men should sit rather than stand to urinate to avoid any splash, or alternatively use a urinal). Do not flush the toilet but tell one of the nurses so that they can put strong disinfectant into the toilet, and a notice on the door asking other patients not to use it. Afterwards, both men and women should wash the genital area with soap and water. Most of the Mitomycin is passed out the first time you pass urine, and after this no further precautions are required.

What to do after each treatment

Once you have passed urine you can go home. If you wish you may ask the nurse for a drink and a biscuit before you leave. You will need to drink plenty of fluid over the next 24 hours to flush the remaining drug from the bladder. If you are sexually active you should use 'protected' intercourse (i.e. using a condom) or abstain for 24 hours after each treatment.