

Gosford Hospital Patient Information on “Intravesical Epirubicin”

What is it?

During your cystoscopy, bladder cancers were found and removed with standard treatment (electrocoagulation/resection). In addition to this you have also received a chemotherapy treatment (intravesical epirubicin) directly into your bladder via the catheter. This has been left to mix inside your bladder for about 90 minutes and then be emptied.

Why was it given?

Bladder cancers often return even after complete removal by operation. This form of treatment will reduce the chance of bladder cancers returning by almost 50% at the time of your first check, although the effect is not always sustained. This means the the chance of you needing to have a cancer removed at your next cystoscopy is halved.

Chemotherapy, is it dangerous?

Most chemotherapy is given to the entire body via a drip in the veins (**systemically**) to kill cancer cells. Your chemotherapy was given **locally, just in your bladder** via the catheter (intravesical). Therefore side effects will **NOT** be like “chemotherapy patients”.

You will find nursing staff wearing special clothing as a precaution when managing your catheter and urine to avoid repeated exposure to this drug for themselves. Notify nursing staff immediately if you feel your catheter leaking or lose control of your bladder (incontinent).

What should I do when I go home?

Following removal of your catheter ensure you:

1. Drink plenty of fluids to “flush” through your bladder.
2. For the first 6 hours, sit to pass urine, flush toilet twice and wash your hands after passing urine each time.
3. Avoid sexual intercourse for 24hours.
4. You can expect some irritation on passing urine for a few days (burning, stinging, frequency, and bleeding). This should be getting better after 24 hours. If it isn't, please see your local doctor because you may have a urinary infection.

What follow up do I need?

1. See your local doctor in 3-4 days to see how you are getting along.
2. You will be seen either in the urology clinic or consulting rooms in 3-6 weeks to discuss the pathology results and arrange a further check cystoscopy in 3 months after this one.
3. **If you experience fevers, chills, chest pain or bladder irritation continues, see your local doctor immediately or come to Gosford Emergency Department.**