COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IRVING MEDICAL CENTER

PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR GEMCITABINE INSTILLATION

GEMCITABINE INSTILLATION INTO THE BLADDER

You are about to receive a medication into your bladder called gemcitabine, which is a chemotherapy to treat bladder cancer. This is done by inserting a catheter into the bladder and then instilling the gemcitabine through the catheter and into the bladder. Then the catheter is removed. This is called a bladder instillation.

AFTER GEMCITABINE INSTILLATION

You should hold the medication in your bladder for 1 hour. After the hour, you should sit on the toilet to urinate (to prevent splatters) and fully empty your bladder. After you urinate, you will need to double flush the toilet. Please clean any splatters (bleach is a sufficient agent). To prevent skin irritation, be sure to wash your hands and genitals with soap and water after passing the drug into the toilet.

You will need to repeat this for 6 hours after the first urination. Drink plenty of fluids on your treatment day to flush out your bladder. If you cannot hold the medication for 1 hour, please tell your nurse.

Possible side effects

Having discomfort on passing urine

Urinary Frequency

Blood or blood clots in the urine

Develop a urinary tract infection

Nausea

Vomiting

Chills

Urinary Urgency

Experience fatigue

TREATMENT SCHEDULE

You will get a bladder instillation once per week for six weeks, and then your doctor will perform a cystoscopy six weeks after you finish the treatments.

If there are no signs of cancer at that time, your doctor may recommend additional monthly doses of this medication.

^{*} If your symptoms are not resolved within 24 hours, or if you have a fever >101.4° F call the office at 212-305-0114