Danbury Hospital

*Danbury Hospital Patient Education Sheet*

# What is Mitomycin?

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Mitomycin is an anti-tumor antibiotic used specifically in the treatment of bladder and rectal cancers. It is also used to treat cancer of the breast, stomach, lung, pancreas and uterus. It works by preventing the cancer cell DNA from coming apart to reproduce or multiply. Other names for this antibiotic include Mitomycin C and Mutamycin.

## How is Mitomycin given?

Mitomycin is a purple or clear blue liquid given intravenously (into the vein) or instilled directly into the bladder through a urinary catheter, called a Foley catheter.

It is important to inform your physician of any medical conditions you have. It is also important to inform him/her of any other medications you are taking to make sure they do not interfere with the outcome of your treatment.

## How do I prepare for bladder instillation?

- No solid foods by mouth for 6 hours prior to the procedure
- No fluids by mouth for 2 hours prior to the procedure
- A Foley catheter will be inserted into your bladder prior to the procedure to drain any urine out.

## How is the procedure performed?

- 30 to 60 milliliters of Mitomycin is instilled into the bladder, and then the Foley catheter is removed.
- You will be asked to hold the Mitomycin in the bladder for 2 hours and to change position every 15 minutes as follows to ensure that the medicine covers the inside of the bladder completely:
    - Lay on your back, on your stomach, on your right side, and then on your left side.

## Is there any special care after the procedure?

- Unless it is contraindicated, it is important to drink extra fluids for several hours after your treatment. Try to drink at least twelve 8-ounce glasses of liquids per day. This will help you to empty your bladder frequently.
- Flush the toilet twice after urinating for two days, and wash hands and genital area well with soap and water. If able to do so, it is recommended that you shower when you get home in order to wash off traces of the medicine that may have been left on your genital area to prevent irritation to the skin.
- For at least the first 8 hours after your treatment, you should sit down on the toilet when passing urine to prevent splashing urine on the skin and causing irritation from the medication.
- Your urine may turn bluish green to purple in color. This is expected and can last for up to 2 days after each treatment.
- It is important not to expose others to this medication. For 2 days after your treatment, wash your clothes separately from the clothes of other members of the family. Also, rubber gloves should be worn when cleaning the toilet to prevent skin irritation from any residual urine and medication that may have splashed on the toilet.

## Are there any side effects I should be aware of?

| Symptoms | What you should do |
|---|---|
| • Bladder irritation, blood in urine<br>• Frequent urge to urinate, painful urination | • Drink plenty of fluids<br>• Report to your physician heavy bleeding/blood in urine |
| • Skin rash or irritation | • Avoid skin contact with urine. Change clothing that comes in contact with urine.<br>• Wash hands and genital area well with soap and water after each urination. |

Source:

National Library of Medicine/MedlinePlus @ www.nlm.nih.gov

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