Other names for this medication:

Immucyst BCG Therapeutic®, Oncotice® Pacis® (Brand Names)

Appearance:

Cloudy solution for instillation into the urinary bladder.

Why this medication is used:

BCG instillation is used to treat bladder cancer.

How do you take this medication:

BCG is instilled directly into the urinary bladder, through a catheter inserted by your nurse. You will hold this solution in your bladder for one or two hours, or as instructed by your doctor or nurse.

Do not drink liquids for two hours before your treatment, so your bladder is empty.

Precautions for you:

• The solution must be held in your bladder for up to two hours. During the first hour, you may have to change position, lying down for 15 minutes on your stomach, back and each side. When you do empty your bladder, you should be sitting down on the toilet. Tell your doctor or nurse if you think this may be a problem.

• It is important to drink extra fluids for several hours after treatment and to empty your bladder frequently to help avoid bladder problems. You should sit to empty your bladder each time for the next 8 hours. Wash your hands and genitals after each time you empty your bladder.

• Tell your doctor or nurse if you have ever had unusual or allergic reactions to BCG or TB (tuberculosis) vaccinations.

• Tell your doctor or nurse if you have any other medical problems especially fever, immunity problems (or if you are receiving drugs which lessen your response to infection, such as Prednisone or Dexamethasone) or urinary tract infection.

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• BCG contains live bacteria. All urine passed within the first three days after treatment must be disinfected with about one cup of bleach (undiluted). Add bleach to the urine in the toilet and let this sit for 15 minutes before flushing. Wash your hands carefully after each trip to the toilet.

• DO NOT have any vaccinations or TB skin test without checking with your doctor or nurse. BCG may cause a positive TB test, without tuberculosis.

Precautions for others:

• BCG could be harmful to an unborn baby. If you have a partner or someone caring for you who is pregnant or who may become pregnant, be careful that this woman avoids any exposure to the drug, or your urine (especially in the one or two days following the bladder treatment). The risk to others may persist for several days after each treatment with BCG.

Facts about sex and pregnancy:

• BCG should not be used if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

• You and your partner should avoid a pregnancy while taking BCG. Birth control pills alone may not be effective for contraception. It is important to discuss the most effective birth control with your doctor.

• Men taking BCG should use condoms during sexual activities and neither men nor women should engage in unprotected sex with a woman who could be pregnant for several days after each treatment with BCG.

This information sheet does not contain all known information about this drug. For more information on this medication, please call your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

(Phone Number for your Doctor or Nurse)__________________________________________

Or call the Canadian Cancer Society’s Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333 or at www.cancer.ca

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## Side Effects

### More Common: greater than 10 out of 100 people
- Blood in urine; fever, chills; frequent urge to urinate, painful urination; joint pain; nausea
  - Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible.
- Burning during first urination after treatment
  - Contact your doctor or nurse if it continues.
  - Take acetaminophen tablets for fever and pain.
- Flu-like illness a few hours after treatment (fever, headache, aching muscles and joints)
  - This is a temporary problem and it is to be expected. Get plenty of rest and continue to drink plenty of fluids.

### Rare: less than 1 out of 100 people
- Skin rash (limbs and trunk)
  - Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible.
- Unusual cough
  - Contact your doctor or nurse.
- Yellow eyes or skin, itchy feeling
  - Go directly to the local Emergency Department and contact your doctor or nurse.
- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, wheezing or other signs of allergic reaction during treatment
  - Your doctor will monitor blood tests for the liver functions.