

Mitomycin

What to expect during your bladder cancer treatment

This leaflet is intended for UK patients prescribed Mitomycin. This leaflet does not contain all information regarding this medicine. Please always consult your healthcare team for further information.



Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

What do I need to do after the procedure?^{1,2,3,4}

After passing the urine containing the Mitomycin, wash your hands and genital area with warm, soapy water.

For the first 6 hours after treatment, you should sit to urinate and double flush with the lid closed to reduce the chance of splashing onto your skin.

For 24 hours after treatment, you should not have sexual intercourse. For a 6 months after each treatment you, your partner or both should use effective contraception.

Mitomycin is contraindicated during pregnancy and breastfeeding. If you think you might be pregnant, please talk to your healthcare professional immediately.

What are the side effects?³

Like all medicines, Mitomycin can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. Here are some of the more common side effects that may be experienced.

- Cystitis
- An increased need to urinate
- A skin rash
- Discomfort in the bladders
- Blood in the urine
- Numbness, swelling and painful redness of the palms of your hands and soles of your feet



For the full list of side effects, please refer to the Patient Information Leaflet which is available from your nurse.

This leaflet will help explain how Mitomycin will be used to treat your non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC), also known as superficial urinary bladder carcinoma.

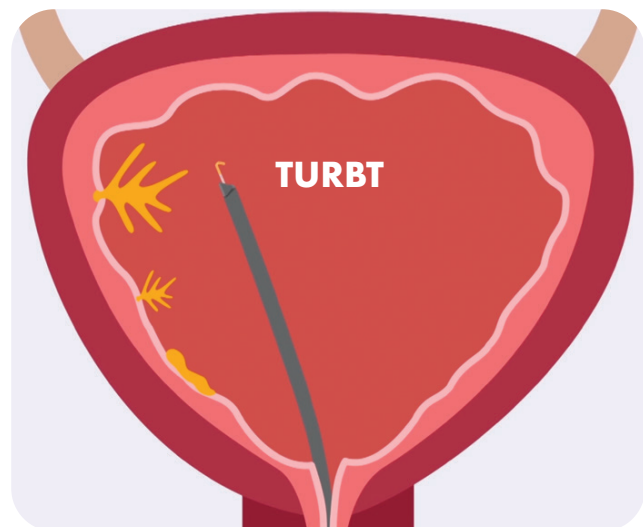
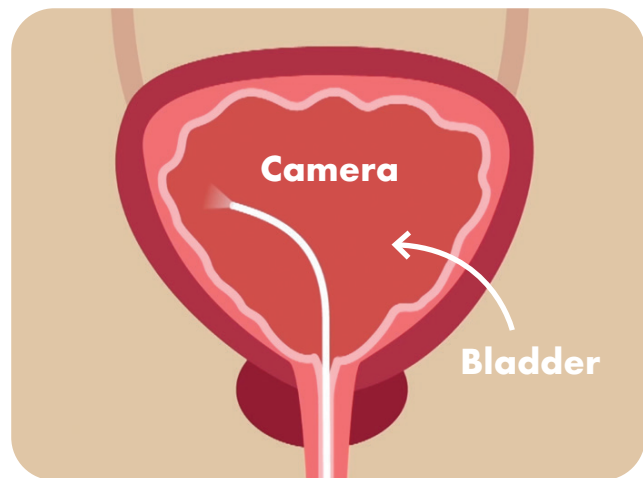
This is a basic overview of the procedure with some answers to frequently asked questions. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to the doctor or nurse caring for you.

Why do I need to have Mitomycin?

Bladder cancer is usually diagnosed during an examination using a flexible cystoscope, a camera which looks inside the bladder. The NMIBC tumours are usually visible on the inside lining of the bladder.

The initial treatment may be a surgical procedure called transurethral resection of the bladder tumour (TURBT), where the tumour is removed through the urethra, the tube that allows urine to leave the bladder.

Tissue samples are usually taken to find out what type of cancer it is and to determine what further treatment is needed to help prevent the tumours coming back.



Mitomycin is intravesical chemotherapy. This means it is instilled directly into your bladder by a catheter, rather than into your bloodstream like most other chemotherapy. Having intravesical chemotherapy may reduce the risk of the cancer coming back or spreading into the deeper layers of the bladder.¹

Mitomycin is usually given in an outpatient setting.

What is Mitomycin?

Mitomycin is a chemotherapy drug that works by killing cancer cells in the bladder.²

It is a blue-purple solution given directly into the bladder which means there should be fewer side effects compared to chemotherapy given by mouth or injection. It is therefore unlikely that you will experience hair loss, nausea or vomiting.

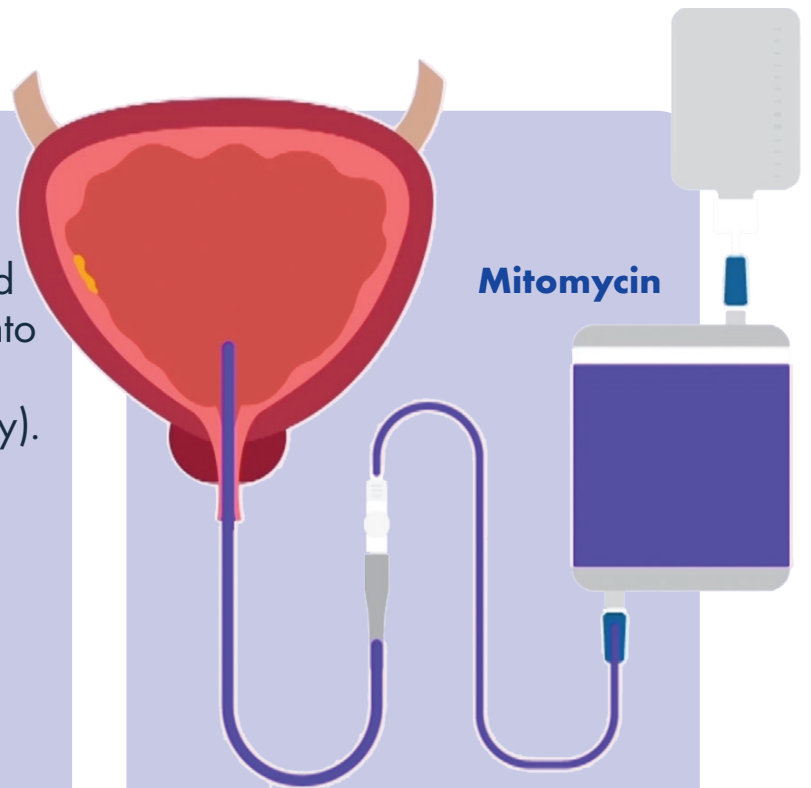
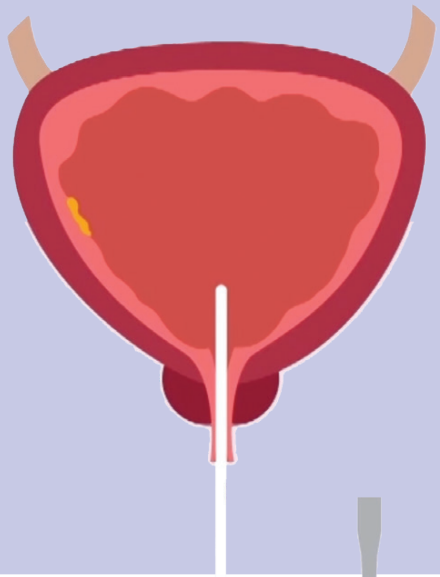
What will happen when I come for my Mitomycin treatment?

Your urology team will ask you to reduce your fluid intake a couple of hours before and during your treatment. This will make it easier to hold your urine and not dilute the Mitomycin while it is in your bladder.

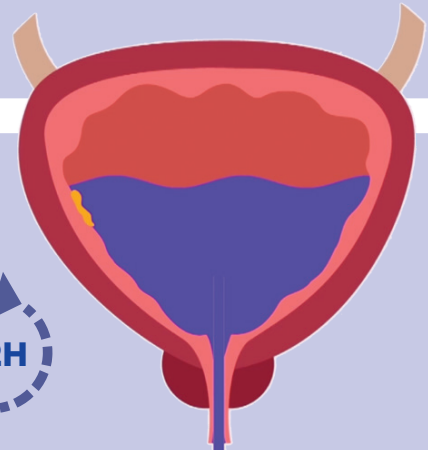
When you arrive at the clinic, the healthcare team will ask you to pass urine to ensure you do not have an infection before administering the treatment. Your team will then ensure you are aware of the side effects and happy to proceed with treatment.

The procedure

- 1** A healthcare professional should clean your genital area and insert some antiseptic gel into your urethra (the tube that carries urine out of the body). A small catheter will be inserted into your bladder.



- 2** Mitomycin will be instilled into the bladder through the catheter.



- 3** The catheter will be removed, and the Mitomycin will be left for 1-2 hours to allow the drug to treat the entire lining of the bladder.

After treatment you will be asked to pass urine to remove the Mitomycin. You should do this sitting down to reduce the risk of spillage.

The frequency of this procedure can vary. Your urology team will advise if any more treatment is needed.¹ After that, your urology team will advise if any more treatment is needed.



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References

1. Cancer Research UK, Chemotherapy into the bladder
(<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/bladder-cancer/treatment/early/chemotherapy-bladder>) last accessed January 2025
2. Cancer Research UK, Mitomycin
(<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancer-in-general/treatment/cancer-drugs/drugs/mitomycin>) last accessed January 2025
3. Mitomycin medac SPC, last accessed January 2025
4. York and Scarborough Teaching Hospital Intravesical Chemotherapy Guide, last accessed January 2025.