**HOW DOES IMMUNOTHERAPY FIGHT BLADDER CANCER?**

Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment that boosts the body’s own immune system to fight bladder cancer.

**WHY USE IMMUNOTHERAPY?**

Immunotherapy helps the immune system destroy bladder cancer cells.

- **BCG** is used to treat non-invasive bladder cancer, which is contained inside the bladder.

- **Immune checkpoint inhibitors** are used to treat advanced bladder cancer which has spread outside the bladder.

**RISKS AND BENEFITS**

Immunotherapy brings risks and benefits.

**RISKS**

- nausea
- rash
- diarrhea
- thyroid disorders

** BENEFITS**

While patients can benefit, there is a risk that healthy cells may be targeted. These side effects are usually manageable but, in rare cases, can be serious.

**EFFECTIVE**

In treating bladder cancer

**WHY USE IMMUNOTHERAPY?**

Immunotherapy helps the immune system destroy bladder cancer cells.

- **BCG** is a type of bacteria that is placed in the bladder to attract and activate immune cells.

- **Immune checkpoint inhibitors** are antibodies given intravenously to block the “checkpoints” that cancer cells use to avoid being attacked by the immune system.

Examples include atezolizumab, durvalumab, avelumab, nivolumab and pembrolizumab.

**BCG**

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin

For more information about Immunotherapy, visit the Urology Care Foundation’s website: UrologyHealth.org

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