

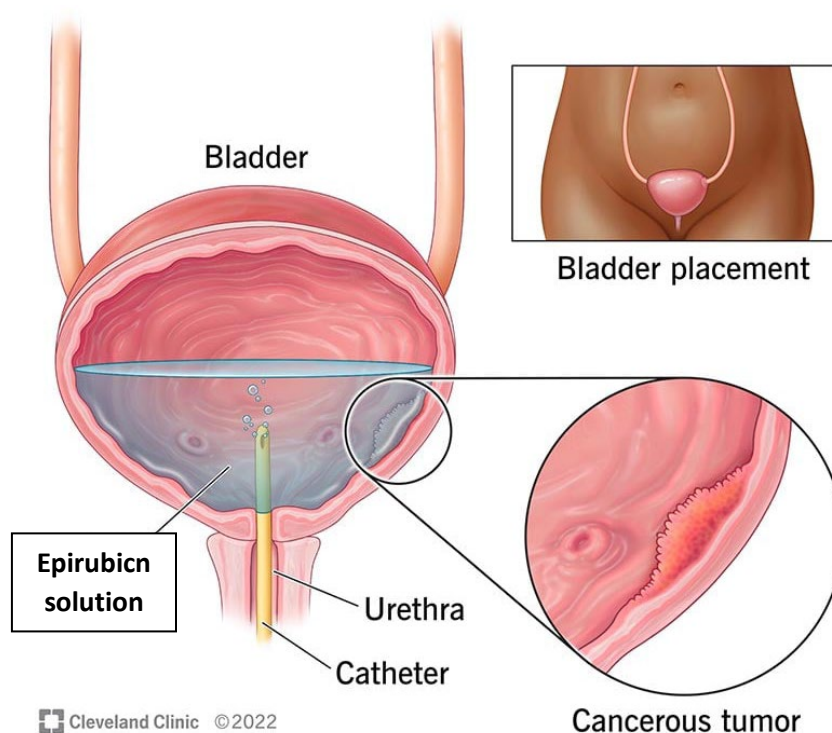
# Epirubicin

## Patient Information – Urology Service

### What is Epirubicin?

Epirubicin is a form of liquid chemotherapy that is put into the bladder via a catheter (a small drainage tube that passes through the urethra into the bladder). This is done at the time of your TURBT (bladder tumour) surgery, as it is given for the treatment of superficial bladder cancer.

The epirubicin will coat the lining of your bladder and works by helping to stop the regrowth and division of cancer cells.



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### What are the side effects?

As this medication is given directly into the bladder and not into the blood vessels, the side effects of traditional chemotherapy, such as nausea, are not experienced.

However, it is possible you will notice:

- Some blood in your urine, bladder discomfort, or passing urine more frequently. This is because the epirubicin can irritate the lining of the bladder. This should settle within 48 hours.

- Urine that looks red. This is due to the red colouring of epirubicin. Your urine may look red for the rest of the day after your treatment.  
Drinking two to three litres of water per day can help to clear this.
- Smelly or cloudy urine. This may mean you have a urine infection. If this occurs, you need to contact your GP. Please tell them you have received epirubicin recently.
- Rash on your palms or genitals. The best way to reduce this risk is by washing your hands and genitals with soap and water each time you pass urine.

## What should I do after treatment?

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For the first 48 hours following your treatment you should:

- Sit down to pass urine, as this will prevent spraying of the epirubicin onto your skin, clothing and toilet seat.
- Close the toilet lid when flushing and flush twice.
- Wash clothing separately on a hot wash cycle if you have leaked urine onto it.
- Drink approximately two litres of fluid a day to help flush the medication out of your bladder.
- Avoid sexual intercourse or ensure you wear a condom, in order to protect your partner.

## Contact information

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If you have any concerns or questions regarding this procedure, please contact the Urology Unit at Christchurch Hospital, on (03) 364 4307.

For more information about:

- Hospital and specialist services, go to [www.cdhb.health.nz](http://www.cdhb.health.nz)
- Your health and medication, go to [www.healthinfo.org.nz](http://www.healthinfo.org.nz)

For information on parking, how to get to the hospital, and visiting hours, please visit [www.cdhb.health.nz](http://www.cdhb.health.nz)