Chemotherapeutic Prophylaxis of Superficial Bladder Tumors

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In a recent issue of ONCOLOGY (15:85-88, 2001), Drs. Edgar C. Baselli and Richard E. Greenberg presented a brief overview of maintenance intravesical chemotherapy for superficial bladder cancer.[1] Along with two accompanying reviews,[2,3] this article highlights the continuing controversy surrounding the management of this disease. While numerous drugs have been and continue to be used in the treatment of superficial bladder cancer, the true impact of such treatment on recurrence, progression, and survival remains unclear. Some investigators (eg, Lamm et al[4]) suggest that intravesical chemotherapy has only a minor effect on tumor recurrence rates and question the advisability of its routine use (as opposed to immunotherapy with bacillus Calmette-Guérin, or BCG). In fact, Lamm et al reported that the addition of chemotherapy produced only a 14% decrease in the recurrence rate at 1 to 3 years post-transurethral resection of the bladder (TURB)."
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