

# PPD skin test enhances bacillus Calmette-Guerin Tx in bladder CA

May 16 2018

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(HealthDay)—For patients with non-muscle invasive bladder cancer,

undergoing the purified protein derivative skin test prior to bacillus Calmette-Guérin therapy may have therapeutic impact, according to a study published in the June issue of *The Journal of Urology*.

Naoya Niwa, M.D., from the Keio University School of Medicine in Tokyo, and colleagues treated 498 patients with non-muscle [invasive bladder cancer](#) with adjuvant bacillus Calmette-Guérin; 320 of the patients underwent the purified [protein](#) derivative skin test one to two weeks before therapy.

The researchers found that the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation five-year recurrence-free survival rate was  $66.6 \pm 2.8$  percent and  $59.1 \pm 4.1$  percent for patients who did and did not undergo the purified protein derivative skin test, respectively ( $P = 0.048$ ). There were no significant differences between the groups in progression-free survival. Significant independent associations with tumor recurrence were seen for a history of recurrence, multiple tumors, the bacillus Calmette-Guérin Connaught strain, seven or more bacillus Calmette-Guérin instillations, and undergoing the purified protein derivative skin test. Overall, 24.1 and 15.2 percent of [patients](#) who did and did not undergo the test, respectively, had major bacillus Calmette-Guérin-related side effects ( $P = 0.02$ ).

"Combination therapy with bacillus Calmette-Guérin using the purified protein derivative skin [test](#) may improve the oncologic outcomes of that therapy," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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Citation: PPD skin test enhances bacillus Calmette-Guerin Tx in bladder CA (2018, May 16)

retrieved 25 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-05-ppd-skin-bacillus-calmette-guerin-tx.html>

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