

Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) Information

Pre-treatment Bronchoscopy

- If you are being treated with PDT for airway obstruction or lung cancer, your physician may do a bronchoscopy prior to beginning the treatment. If you are to have a bronchoscopy it is important to follow these instructions (see the bronchoscopy information sheet on our website):
 - Nothing to eat or drink after 12 midnight the night before
 - You may take your morning medicines with sips of water
 - Please inform your doctor if you take any blood thinning medications including (but not limited to) Plavix, Coumadin or a 'low-molecular weight heparin' such as Lovenox
 - Please inform your doctor if you take any medications for diabetes / sugar
 - You must have someone to take you home / to your hotel

Injection of Photofrin

- At the time of your appointment for injection of PHOTOFRIN and any other time thereafter you should wear the following items:
 - Long sleeve shirt, slacks, gloves, socks, shoes, a wide-brimmed hat and ski-mask or scarf
 - Wear tightly woven, light -colored fabrics, if possible
 - Dark sunglasses

Potential Complication/side Effects Following PDT

- As a result of cell destruction following PDT the following side effects may occur:
 - Shortness of breath
 - Chest pain
 - Hemoptysis (coughing up blood)
 - Nausea
 - Low-grade fever

Photosensitivity (Information and Instructions)

- From the time you receive your photofrin injection -- and for approximately 30 days thereafter -- your skin and eyes will be very sensitive to bright light. Photosensitivity can occur in minutes, so it is important to take precautions. During this time, exposure to sunlight may create a severe sunburn even to the point of blistering. Such reactions can generally be prevented by protection from sunlight either by thick clothing or not going outside. **Sun protection creams are not effective.** Long sleeved shirts and pants, sunglasses, gloves, socks and shoes, and a wide-brimmed hat are required during the next 4 weeks if you are out in the sun.

- The lighting in your home should not be a problem. Most indoor activities are fine including watching television. You can also go to the movies or live theater. When reading, do not expose your skin to the light from a bright reading lamp. Stay away from bright examination lights such as those found in a dentist office, and “helmet” type hair dryers like those found in beauty salons. Hand held hair dryers at a low setting are a safer option. One week after injection, walking in front of a window occasionally with the sunlight streaming in will not hurt you.
- At four weeks we generally recommend that you extend one hand into sunlight for about five (5) minutes. If it does not sunburn significantly, expose the other hand to sunlight for fifteen (15) minutes the next day. If there is no significant sunburn, it is acceptable to walk outside for thirty (30) minutes the following day. If this results in no sunburn, you can try one hour the next day. An important point to remember is this: gradually exposure to sunlight will help “bleach” the drug out of your skin.
- It is very important that even two or three months after the treatment gradually expose the previously unexposed skin to sunlight. Long exposures of untanned skin to sunlight will typically cause sunburn, for even as long as three months after your PDT treatment. Remember: Gradual exposure of skin to sunlight is critical.
- There are some patients, particularly those who live in sunny climates, who have sunlight photosensitivity extending for longer periods of time. If you receive a significant sunburn after exposure of your skin to sunlight at four weeks, it is best for you to wait another several weeks before significant sun exposure. At six weeks you would follow the same gradual sun exposure procedure described above.

My Treatment Plan

_____ : Photofrin Injection (you may eat breakfast)

- Please report to the ‘infusion center’ on Nelson 3, suite 340 at _____

_____ : Bronchoscopy with ‘activation’

- Please refer to the bronchoscopy information sheet on our website
- Report to the Endoscopy Unit on Blalock 4 at _____

You will stay in the hospital 2 – 3 more days and have a repeat bronchoscopy to ‘clean out’ the airways. Please bring any necessary supplies / items that will make your hospital stay as comfortable as possible.

**For any questions or problems, do not hesitate to call:
 Dr. David Feller-Kopman- 410-502-2533
 Pager for emergencies- 410-283-1077**