

# Radium 223 Xofigo®

## What You Need to Know

Your doctor has discussed with you that Radium 223 Xofigo® is being added to your treatment for prostate cancer that has spread to the bone. The medical term for this type of cancer is “metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer”. To treat this, the medicine contains a small amount of radioactivity that goes to where the cancer has spread in the bone.

### What can I expect?

Xofigo® is given by intravenous injection once every 4 weeks. You will get 6 injections in total.

We give this treatment in the vein only (that is, we do not give the treatment via a PICC (peripherally-inserted central catheter) line or an implanted venous access device, such as a Port-a-Cath). The injection takes less than one minute to give.

- Before each injection, your oncologist and nurse in the Cancer Care Clinic will monitor your blood counts and your weight, and review any side effects that you may have.
- If you are receiving other treatments for the bone, you will continue to receive these medicines in the Cancer Care Clinic.
- You will then go to the Nuclear Medicine department for the Xofigo® injection.

### What are the side effects?

Xofigo® can cause...	What to do...
Your blood cell counts to go down (red blood cells, white blood cells and/or platelets)	Attend your blood cell count monitoring appointments so we can watch your blood counts.  <b>Tell your doctor or nurse if you:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are short of breath, tired, bleeding, or bruising, or</li> <li>• Have a fever (temperature at or above 38.3 °C (100.9 °F) <i>at any time</i>, or at or above 38.0 °C (100.4 °F) <i>for at least 1 hour</i>).</li> </ul>
Diarrhea (loose, runny stool)	The radioactive material leaves your body through blood, stool, and urine.  <b>Tell your doctor or nurse if you have:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in bowel habits, such as diarrhea or constipation (hard stool).</li> </ul>
Dehydration, especially if you have diarrhea	Stay well-hydrated and drink plenty of fluids for at least 24 hours after each treatment.  <b>Tell your doctor or nurse if you have:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased dry mouth or thirst,</li> <li>• Burning when urinating, or</li> <li>• Persistent vomiting or diarrhea.</li> </ul>

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**English:** This information is important! If you have trouble reading this, ask someone to help you.

**Italian:** Queste informazioni sono importanti! Se ha difficoltà a leggere questo, chiedi aiuto a qualcuno.

**Spanish:** ¡Esta información es importante! Si tiene dificultad en leer esto, pida que alguien le ayude.

## How can I keep others and myself safe during my treatment?

During the first week after each Xofigo® injection, there may be some radioactivity in your blood, urine and stools. During this time, you can meet with others as you normally would, but **take the following safety precautions to limit exposing your bodily fluids to your family, friends, and other healthcare personnel:**

### HANDLING BODILY FLUIDS

- Wear medical gloves (for example, nitrile gloves) when cleaning the toilet, cleaning up spills, or handling soiled clothing.
- Wash clothing separately from other laundry during the first week after each injection.
- When you need to urinate or have a bowel movement, sit down on the toilet.
- Flush the toilet twice. Close the lid when flushing.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after using the toilet and cleaning up spills.

### BIRTH CONTROL

- If sexually active, use condoms.
- Avoid pregnancy. Use effective birth control methods during your treatment and for 6 months after your treatment.
- If you need more information about fertility and sperm banking, speak with your doctor or nurse.

### RADIATION SAFETY

- If you need to get blood, urine, or stool samples, or testing **within the first week after an injection**, tell the medical staff at the lab that you have received Radium 223.
- If you have to go to a doctor, emergency room, or need surgery **within the first week after an injection**, tell the medical staff that you have received Radium 223.

- If you plan to travel outside of Ontario **within one month of treatment**, tell your health care team and Nuclear Medicine staff. The radioactive isotope Radium 223 that remains in your body after treatment may trigger security alarms at border crossings (for example, at the airport). The Nuclear Medicine staff will give you a wallet card to inform others that you received this treatment. Please carry this card with you when travelling.

For more information, you can also refer to the Xofigo® Patient Starter Kit that contains the Patient Brochure, Patient Diary, Wallet Card, and Aftercare Sheet.

### Questions?

If you have further questions, you can contact your doctor or nurse at:

**Cancer Care Clinic** (1st floor, East entrance)  
Tel: (416) 242-1000 ext. 21500

**Nuclear Medicine Department** (1st floor, near Central Elevators, behind gift shop)  
Tel: (416) 242-1000 ext. 63823

**Contact your doctor or nurse in the Cancer Care Clinic, or go to the nearest emergency room right away if you experience:**

- Any unusual bleeding or more bleeding than usual after an injury.
- A temperature of 38.3 °C (100.9 °F) or higher at any time, or 38.0 °C (100.4 °F) or higher for at least one hour (this is considered a fever).