

## <sup>223</sup>Radium

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### Other names for this medication

<sup>223</sup>Radium Dichloride  
Xofigo®

### Read this information to learn:

- what is <sup>223</sup>Radium
- about possible side effects
- radiation safety instructions to follow after your treatment
- who to call if you have any questions or concerns

### Your treatment schedule for <sup>223</sup>Radium is ...

Treatment	Date	Time
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

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## Where to go for treatment

Juravinski Hospital  
Department of Nuclear Medicine  
1st Floor, Section B  
711 Concession Street  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8V 1C3



Follow the signs to Diagnostic Imaging. Then follow the signs to Nuclear Medicine.

## What is $^{223}\text{Radium}$ ?

$^{223}\text{Radium}$  is a medicine that is radioactive. It is used to treat prostate cancer that has spread to bone. It is injected into a vein by a nuclear medicine doctor or technologist.

## Possible side effects

- After a treatment, you may have:
  - nausea
  - diarrhea
  - vomiting
  - swelling in your arms and legs

Talk to your doctor as soon as you have any of these side effects.

- It is important to have all your blood work done as requested because  $^{223}\text{Radium}$  can cause low blood cell levels. Tell your doctor if you:
  - are short of breath
  - are tired
  - have bleeding (such as bruising)
  - have signs of infection (like a fever)
- Drink lots of fluids. Tell your doctor if you often:
  - have a dry mouth
  - feel thirsty
  - have problems (such as a burning feeling) when you urinate



## Radiation safety instructions after your treatment

You can be around your friends and family as usual.

### For 1 week after each treatment:

- Use disposable underwear or adult diapers if you have diarrhea or urinary incontinence (leaking urine).
- Clean any urine spills, vomit or any other body fluid right away.
  - Get rid of the material you use to clean it by:
    - flushing it down the toilet or
    - placing it in a plastic bag and putting it into the garbage.
  - Wash any clothes that have your urine, stool or blood on it separately.
  - Wash your hands very well after handling.
  - If a family member or caregiver is helping you with this, they must wear medical gloves.
- Sit on the toilet when you urinate and close the lid when you flush.
- Flush the toilet twice after each time you use it.
- Wash your hands very well after using the toilet.



### For 2 months after each treatment:

- Any leftover radioactive medicine in your body may set off security alarms at border crossings and airports. Tell the Nuclear Medicine Department if you plan to leave Canada or travel by plane. They will give you a letter to explain your treatment to border or security officers.
- If you have to go to the emergency room, the dentist or need surgery, tell the healthcare provider(s) that you have a small amount of radiation in your body. Show them the radiation safety wallet card you have been given.

### For 6 months after each treatment:

- Always use condoms when having sex.
- Make sure female partners who may become pregnant use effective birth control methods.

## In case of a medical emergency

Seek help right away. Never delay emergency medical care because you have been treated with <sup>223</sup>Radium. Tell the health care staff about your treatment and provide the radiation safety wallet card you have been given.

## Who can I call if I have any questions or concerns?

Your Oncologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nuclear Medicine Department – Juravinski Hospital

Between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm	905-521-2100, Ext. 42237
After Hours	905-521-2100 Press “0” and ask for the Radiation Safety Officer

We gratefully acknowledge the University Health Network Patient and Family Education Program for their permission to use and adapt information from “<sup>223</sup>Radium Xofigo®”.