

Intravesical instillation of Calmette-Guérin bacillus and COVID-19 risk

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Abstract

It has been theorized that Calmette-Guérin bacillus may prevent or reduce the severity of COVID-19 through a nonspecific stimulation of the immune system. A preliminary assessment of SARS-CoV-2 infection rates and outcomes among 2803 individuals affected with high risk non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer and treated with intra-bladder instillation of BCG, showed no evidence of a protective effect. However, the interpretation of these data need some caution, due to the low prevalence of infection (<1%) observed within this population, along with the fact that intra-bladder administration cannot mirror the usual intradermal administration of BCG, in particular in patients partially immunocompromised. Confirmation by larger prospective studies is required.

Keywords: BCG; Covid-19; bladder Cancer; epidemiology.

FULL TEXT

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32880510/>