

## Radium 223 Patient Information

(Other Name: Xofigo®)

### What is Radium 223?

Radium 223 is a medicine that is radioactive. It is used to treat prostate cancer that has spread to the bone and is causing you pain.

### How do I receive my Radium 223?

Radium 223 is given by injection into your vein through an intravenous line (IV). It is given every 4 weeks for up to a total of 6 treatments.

- You will meet with your Oncology Team at the Walker Family Cancer Centre (WFCC) the week before your treatment. You will be assessed and discuss your treatment plan.
- Please ensure that your blood work is done before your visit. Your Oncology Team will review your blood work and see how you are doing.
- On the day of your Radium 223 treatment you will have an IV inserted at WFCC. Your Radium 223 injection will be given in the Nuclear Medicine department.

### What side effects can I expect?

- **Your blood counts may go down (white blood cells, platelets, red blood cells):**
  - Tell your team if you have a fever, bleeding or bruising, or new shortness of breath.
  - Your treatment may be postponed due to low blood counts.

Fever is a temperature of:  
**38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at anytime**  
OR  
**38.0°C (100.4°F) for one hour or more**

- **Stomach and bowel symptoms:**
  - Tell your doctor or nurse if you have:
    - ✓ Diarrhea (loose or watery stool)
    - ✓ Constipation (hard stool)
    - ✓ Nausea/Vomiting
- **Dehydration:**
  - Stay well hydrated and drink plenty of fluids
- **Redness, swelling or pain at the injection site**
- **Swelling in your arms and/or legs**



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

You can be around your friends, family and pets as usual. Radium 223 will be present in your bodily fluids (urine, stool, vomit, blood and semen) for up to 7 days after each injection. Please take these measures to keep you and your family safe during these **7 days**:

- If linens or clothes become **soiled with bodily fluids**:
  - Use disposable gloves to handle soiled linens or clothing
  - Wash immediately, separate from other laundry
  - Use hot water and detergent
- When using the toilet, sit to urinate. Flush with the **lid down**. Double flush if you have a low volume toilet.
- If you have a urinary catheter, be sure to wear disposable gloves when handling the catheter and urine bags. Place an absorbent pad under the bag and tubing to catch any urine drops when emptying or changing your urine bag. Any spilled urine should be wiped off right away with a paper towel. Disposable items that have been in contact with urine should be put into a sealed plastic bag and thrown out with the regular trash.
- If using disposable adult diapers or briefs, seal them in a plastic bag and discard with regular trash.
- You will need to use condoms during sex to protect your partner from bodily fluids. Please take measures to avoid pregnancy for at least 6 months after your last injection.
- Wash your hands well with soap and water after handling any bodily fluids even if you wear gloves.

### Important Information

You will receive a Radium 223 wallet card. Present this card to staff if you:

- need to have blood, urine or stool testing
- go to a doctor, emergency room, dentist or require surgery
- are travelling (Radioactive medicine in your body may set off security alarms. This could cause a delay in your travel plans.)

## Walker Family Cancer Centre

**Call: 905-682-6451**

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**For help with symptoms after hours call CAREchart: 1-877-681-3057**

#### Information in this handout is adapted from:

Xofigo® (radium Ra 223 dichloride solution for injection) Product Monograph. Bayer Inc., September 2018

Hamilton Health Sciences, 2015. *<sup>223</sup>Radium*

Humber River Hospital, 2016. *Radium 223 Xofigo®: What You Need to Know.*

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2