



The University of Georgia  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Oncology Service  
(706) 542-3221

### Client Information: L-Asparaginase (Elspar)

Today your pet was treated with L-asparaginase (brand name Elspar). This is a chemotherapeutic agent. Please follow the instructions below.

#### Special Instructions for Care

There are only trace amounts of this drug excreted in the urine and stool, so exposure through animal waste is not expected.

**For dogs:** We recommend that dogs urinate and defecate in a low-traffic area of the yard for 48 hours after treatment with L-asparaginase. If your dog urinates or defecates in the house during this time, wear gloves when cleaning the area. You can clean the area with soap and water. Women who are pregnant or nursing, people actively trying to conceive, and children should not handle the dog's urine or stool for 48 hours after treatment.

**For cats:** Women who are pregnant or nursing, people actively trying to conceive, and children should not clean the litter box for 48 hours after treatment with L-asparaginase. When cleaning the litter box, wear gloves. You can use flushable litter and flush urine clumps and stool down the toilet or use scoopable litter and place urine clumps and stool in a plastic bag and throw in the garbage. Change all of the litter in the box 48 hours after treatment and clean the litter box with soap and water.

#### Potential Side Effects

**Most patients do not experience side effects with this drug, but rarely side effects can occur. It is important that you are able to recognize side effects. These side effects will generally resolve with appropriate treatment.**

##### 1. Allergic Reaction

This is rare and if it occurs, it will usually be within 15-30 minutes of treatment. We monitor pets closely during this time. Signs include itchiness, red skin, facial swelling, hives, panting, shaking, and possibly collapse. You are unlikely to see this reaction at home, but if these signs are noted, please call us.

##### 2. Gastrointestinal Side Effects

These are uncommon with this drug. Please monitor your pet for vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, or loss of appetite.

For **loss of appetite**, try feeding boiled chicken and rice for dogs and fishy canned foods for cats. If your pet does not eat for 24 hours or is lethargic and inappetent, please call us.

For **vomiting**, if your pet vomits once or twice, withhold food and water for 12 hours and then reintroduce water. If your pet does not vomit after drinking water, you can offer food. If there are more than 2 episodes of vomiting, if vomiting resumes with feeding, or if your pet is lethargic and vomiting, please call us.

For **diarrhea**, if stools are soft, feed bland food (boiled chicken and rice) for dogs. If the diarrhea is bloody, watery, persists for more than 24 hours, or if your pet is lethargic and has diarrhea, please call us.

If your pet is **lethargic** and has gastrointestinal signs, please call us. This could mean dehydration or infection and we will most likely have you bring your pet to the hospital for examination and treatment.

**Note: If your pet is showing any of the signs described above or if you have any concerns about your pet, please call us. With appropriate care, most toxicity will resolve within a few days.**