



The University of Georgia

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

Client Information: MPP protocol (mustargen, procarbazine, prednisone)

Today your pet was treated with an injectable chemotherapy drug, mustargen. He/she will be treated at home with an oral chemotherapy drug, procarbazine. Your pet will also receive prednisone tablets at home (see separate handout for prednisone). Please follow the instructions below.

Special instructions for care

Administration of procarbazine: Wear gloves when handling this medication. If your pet spits the pill out onto the floor, rinse the area with a dilute soap and water solution and dispose of the materials in an outdoor trash receptacle. If the capsule begins to “melt” after your pet spits it out, discard the capsule and start over. For dogs, capsules can be given in a “meatball” of food or cheese or peanut butter. Often, coating the tablet with a small amount of butter will ease administration of pills to cats. Special “pet pillers” are available at many pet stores. After your pet swallows the pill, encourage them to drink water (dogs) or administer 5 cc of water slowly via syringe so that the pills do not sit in your pet’s esophagus.

Handling of wastes

Minimal amounts of these drugs are excreted in the urine. A moderate amount of metabolized procarbazine is present in the stool.

For dogs: If your dog urinates in the house, wear gloves when cleaning up urine. Rinse the area with a dilute soap and water solution, and dispose of materials in an outdoor trash receptacle. Women who are pregnant, nursing, or trying to conceive, children, and immunosuppressed individuals should avoid contact with urine and feces for 72 hours after treatment.

For cats: Women who are pregnant, nursing, or trying to conceive, children, and immunosuppressed individuals should avoid contact with the litter box for the first 72 hours after treatment. We recommend that you change the entire litter box 2-3 days after treatment (clean it with soap and water), and be diligent about scooping litter during your cat’s entire treatment with chemotherapy. If you use flushable litter, flush it down the

toilet; if not, scoop litter into a plastic bag and put this waste into an outdoor trash receptacle.

Catheter site

Mustargen is a drug that causes extreme irritation if any of it gets outside of the vein. We use extreme care when administering this medication. Always ask your doctor or technician to let you know where the drug was given (usually the red bandage is still on the leg at the time of discharge- you can take this off when you get home). If you notice that your pet is licking the leg excessively after treatment or if the area seems painful, alert your doctor.

Potential side effects

Many patients experience mild to moderate side effects with these drugs. It is important that you monitor your pet carefully for side effects, especially during the first week of treatment. These side effects will usually resolve with appropriate treatment.

1. Gastrointestinal side effects

Please monitor your pet for vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite. These effects can be seen as early as 1-2 days after treatment, but are usually seen 2-5 days post-treatment. Since procarbazine is a drug that often causes a decreased appetite, please contact your doctor if this occurs. Often, adjusting the dose of this drug will greatly improve your pet's tolerance of it.

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

For **vomiting**: If your pet vomits once or twice, withhold food and water for 12 hours 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, call for advice.

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

2. Myelosuppression (low white blood cell or platelet count)

This can occur as early as 7 days after treatment and usually does not cause a problem. If the white blood cell count falls too low, your pet is susceptible to infection. These infections usually originate from your pet's own skin or intestinal tract. Signs of infection can include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, and collapse. If your pet displays one of these signs, please call for advice. You can try to take your dog's temperature at home; if it is greater than 103 degrees, call for advice. If signs of infection are present, it is very likely that we will recommend a visit to the hospital for examination and treatment. If left untreated, infections can be fatal.

NOTE: If your pet is showing any of the signs described above or if you have any concerns about your pet, please call us at (706) 542-3221. With appropriate care, most toxicity will resolve within a few days.