



The University of Georgia

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

Client Information: Carboplatin (Paraplatin®)

Today your pet was treated with carboplatin (brand name Paraplatin). This is a chemotherapeutic agent. Please follow the instructions below.

Special instructions for care

Carboplatin is mainly excreted in the urine, so exposure to urine should be avoided for several days after administration. This drug is not excreted in the stool.

For dogs: We recommend that dogs urinate in a low-traffic area of the yard (i.e., distant corner where children do not play) for 72 hours after treatment with carboplatin. 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 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 with carboplatin. 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.

Potential side effects

Many patients do not experience side effects with this drug, but potential side effects can occur. It is important that you monitor your pet for side effects. 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.

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 or as late as 21-28 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.