

**For the Patient: Carboplatin**

Other names: PARAPLATIN®, PARAPLATIN-AQ®

BC Cancer Agency

- **Carboplatin** (KAR-boe-plat-in) is a drug that is used to treat many kinds of cancers. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to cisplatin (PLATINOL®, PLATINOL-AQ®) or mannitol before starting carboplatin treatment.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Other drugs such as phenytoin (DILANTIN®) and warfarin (COUMADIN®) may **interact** with carboplatin. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of carboplatin.
- Carboplatin may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with carboplatin.
- Carboplatin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with carboplatin. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with carboplatin before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

| SIDE EFFECTS | MANAGEMENT |
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| <p>Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment and may last for 24 hours.</p> | <p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Control Nausea</i>. |
| <p>Your platelets may decrease 3 weeks after your treatment. They usually return to normal 4-5 weeks after your last treatment. Platelets help to make your blood clot when you hurt yourself. You may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.</p> | <p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene. <p>Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., ASA for your heart). • For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) first, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable. |
| <p>Your white blood cells will decrease 3-4 weeks after your treatment. They usually return to normal 5 weeks after your last treatment. White blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p> | <p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Take care of your skin and mouth. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Call your doctor immediately at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine. |
| <p>Tiredness and lack of energy may occur.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Your bank of energy savings: How people with cancer can handle fatigue</i>. |

| SIDE EFFECTS | MANAGEMENT |
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| Hair loss is rare with carboplatin. Your hair will grow back once you stop treatment with carboplatin. Colour and texture may change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Care should be taken with use of hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms. |
| Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day. |

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer); chills; cough; pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face and tongue swelling or breathing problems.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs, numbness or tingling in feet or hands.
- **Changes in eyesight.**
- Ringing in your ears or **hearing problems.**
- **Skin rash or itching.**
- **Stomach pain** not controlled by antacids or acetaminophen.

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, constipation or diarrhea.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.
- Easy bruising or bleeding.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR
