

Medication Information Sheet

CARBOplatin

 (KAR-boe-pla-tin)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other Name: Generic brand(s) available

Appearance: Clear, colourless solution mixed into larger bags of fluids

What is this medication for?

For treating ovarian and other cancers.

What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your health care team if you have or had significant medical condition(s), such as:
 - kidney problems
 - hearing problems
 - any allergies, especially to other similar drugs such as cisplatin or oxaliplatin

Remember to:

- Tell your health care team about all of the other medications you are taking.
- Keep taking other medications that have been prescribed for you, unless you have been told not to by your health care team

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

Talk to your health care team about:

- How this treatment may affect your sexual health.
- How this treatment may affect your ability to have a baby, if this applies to you.

This treatment may harm an unborn baby. Tell your health care team if you or your partner are pregnant, become pregnant during treatment, or are breastfeeding.

- If there is **any** chance of pregnancy happening, you and your partner together must:
 - **Use 2 effective forms of birth control** at the same time until **6 months** after your last treatment dose (general recommendation). Talk to your health care team about which birth control options are best for you.

- Do not use hormonal birth control (such as birth control pills), unless your health care team told you that they are safe. Talk to your health care team about the safest birth control for you.
- Do not breastfeed while on this treatment.

How is this medication given?

- This drug is given through an IV (injected into a vein) . Talk to your health care team about your treatment schedule.
- You may be given this treatment along with other medications to help prevent side effects or prevent a reaction.
- If you missed your treatment appointment, talk to your health care team about what to do.

What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- **What should I do if I feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever?**
 - **Always** check your temperature to see if you have a fever **before** taking any medications for fever or pain (such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil)).
 - Fever can be a sign of infection that may need treatment right away.
 - If you take these medications before you check for fever, they may lower your temperature and you may not know you have an infection.

How to check for fever:

Keep a digital (electronic) thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills, headache, mild pain).

- You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:
 - 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time

OR

- 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.

If you do have a fever:

- **Try to contact your health care team. If you are not able to talk to them for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.**
- Ask your health care team for the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.

If you do not have a fever but have mild symptoms such as headache or mild pain:

- ◊ Ask your health care team about the right medication for you. **Acetaminophen (Tylenol®)** is a safe choice for most people.
 - ◊ **Talk to your health care team before you start taking** Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or ASA (Aspirin®), as they may increase your chance of bleeding or interact with your cancer treatment.
 - ◊ Talk to your health care team if you already take **low dose aspirin** for a medical condition (such as a heart problem). It may still be safe to take.
- **Will this medication interact with other medications or natural health products?**
 - ◊ This medication can interact with other medications, vitamins, foods and natural health products. Interactions can make the treatment not work as well or cause severe side effects.
 - ◊ Tell your health care team about all of your:
 - prescription and over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications and all other drugs, such as marijuana (medical or recreational)
 - natural health products such as vitamins, herbal teas, homeopathic medicines, and other supplements
 - ◊ Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
 - If you take seizure medications (such as phenytoin), your health care team may monitor your blood levels closely and may change your dose.
 - If you are taking a blood thinner (such as warfarin), your health care team may need extra blood tests and may change your dose.

What to DO while on this medication:

DO drink plenty of fluids (unless you have been told otherwise) to prevent kidney problems. Drink at least 6 to 8 cups (2 Litres) of water or other liquids per day on your treatment day and for 1 -2 days afterwards, unless your healthcare team has told you to drink more or less.

DO check with your health care team before getting any vaccinations, surgery, dental work or other medical procedures.

DO talk to your health care team about your risk of getting other cancers and heart problems after this treatment.

What NOT to DO on this medication:

DO NOT smoke or drink alcohol while on treatment without talking to your health care team first. Smoking and drinking can make side effects worse and make your treatment not work as well.

What are the side effects of this medication?

The following table lists side effects that you may have when getting carboplatin. The table is set up to list the most common side effects first and the least common last. It is unlikely that you will have all of the side effects listed and you may have some that are not listed.

Read over the side effect table so that you know what to look for and when to get help. Refer to this table if you experience any side effects while on CARBOplatin.

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Low neutrophils (white blood cells) in the blood (neutropenia)</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>When neutrophils are low, you are at risk of getting an infection more easily. Ask your health care team for the Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count) pamphlet for more information.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you feel hot or unwell (for example if you have chills or a new cough), you must check your temperature to see if you have a fever. • Do not take medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen). • Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature. <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR • 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. 	<p>If you have a fever, try to contact your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.</p>

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <p>If your health care team has told you that you have low neutrophils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often to prevent infection. • Check with your health care team before getting any vaccines, surgeries, medical procedures or visiting your dentist. • Keep a digital thermometer at home so you can easily check for a fever. <p>If you have a fever:</p> <p>If you have a fever, try to contact your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you must get emergency medical help right away.</p>	
<p>Low platelets in the blood</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>When your platelets are low, you are at risk for bleeding and bruising. Ask your health care team for the Low Platelet Count pamphlet for more information.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for signs of bleeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ bleeding from your gums ◊ unusual or heavy nosebleeds ◊ bruising easily or more than normal ◊ black coloured stools (poo) or blood in your stools (poo) ◊ coughing up red or brown coloured mucus ◊ dizziness, constant headache or changes in your vision ◊ heavy vaginal bleeding ◊ red or pink coloured urine (pee) <p>What to do?</p> <p>If your health care team has told you that you have low platelets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your pharmacist that your platelet count may be low before taking any prescriptions or over-the-counter medication. • Check with your healthcare team before you go to the dentist. • Take care of your mouth and use a soft toothbrush. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if you have any signs of bleeding. If you have bleeding that doesn't stop or is severe (very heavy), you MUST get emergency help right away.</p>

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to prevent cuts and bruises. • Ask your health care team what activities are safe for you. • Your treatment may have to be delayed if you have low platelets. Your health care team may recommend a blood transfusion. <p>If you have signs of bleeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a small bleed, clean the area with soap and water or a saline (saltwater) rinse. Apply pressure for at least 10 minutes. <p>If you have bleeding that does not stop or is severe (very heavy), you must get emergency medical help right away.</p>	
<p>Nausea and vomiting</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea is feeling like you need to throw up. You may also feel light-headed. • You may feel nausea within hours to days after your treatment. <p>What to do?</p> <p>To help prevent nausea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it once it happens. • Take your anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed, even if you do not feel like throwing up. • Drink clear liquids and have small meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Do not eat spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. • Limit caffeine (like coffee, tea) and avoid alcohol. <p>If you have nausea or vomiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your rescue (as-needed) anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed. • Ask your health care team for the Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet for more information. • Talk to your health care team if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ nausea lasts more than 48 hours ◊ vomiting lasts more than 24 hours or if it is severe 	<p>Talk to your health care team if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting lasts more than 24 hours or if severe</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Too much or too little salt in your body</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscle spasms, cramping, weakness, twitching, or convulsions. • Irregular heartbeat, confusion or blood pressure changes. <p>What to do?</p> <p>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms</p>
<p>Kidney problems</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>Your health care team may check for proteins in your urine (pee) and your kidney function regularly with a blood test. You may have blood in your urine.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling in your hands, ankles, feet or other areas of your body. • Weight gain that is not normal for you. • Pain in your lower back. • Muscle twitches and cramps or itchiness that won't go away. • Nausea (feeling like you need to throw up) and vomiting. • Changes in urination (peeing) such as less urine than usual. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have any of these signs, talk to your health care team or go to your closest emergency department. <p>To prevent kidney infections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink at least 6 to 8 cups (2 litres) of water or other liquids per day unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less. • When you feel the need to pee, go as soon as possible. Do not wait or hold in the pee. 	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Liver problems</p> <p>(Temporary)</p> <p>Your health care team may check your liver function with a blood test. The liver changes do not usually cause any symptoms.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely, you may develop yellowish skin or eyes, unusually dark pee or pain on the right side of your belly. This may be severe. <p>What to do?</p> <p>If you have any symptoms of liver problems, get emergency medical help right away.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>
<p>Change in your hearing</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not being able to hear as well as before. • New noise or ringing sounds in your ears. • Changes in hearing usually go away over time. In some rare cases they may be permanent. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your health care team if you have any of these symptoms. Your health care team may need to change your medication. 	<p>Talk to your health care team as soon as possible</p>
<p>Fatigue</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling of tiredness or low energy that lasts a long time and does not go away with rest or sleep. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be active. Aim to get 30 minutes of moderate exercise (you are able to talk 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>comfortably while exercising) on most days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your health care team before starting any new exercise. • Pace yourself, do not rush. Put off less important activities. Rest when you need to. • Ask family or friends to help you with things like housework, shopping, and child or pet care. • Eat well and drink at least 6 to 8 glasses of water or other liquids every day (unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less). • Avoid driving or using machinery if you are feeling tired. <p>Ask your health care team for the Fatigue pamphlet for more information.</p>	

Other rare, but serious side effects are possible.

If you experience ANY of the following, speak to your cancer health care provider or get emergency medical help right away:

- Pain, hardening or swelling of a vein in your arm or leg
- Shortness of breath, coughing up blood or pain in your chest or belly
- Sudden loss of vision, speech, or the use of your limb(s)
- Flushing, itchiness, rash, swollen lips, face or tongue or chest and throat tightness
- Yellowing of your skin and/or eyes, red-brown pee or bruising easily
- Tender (hurts to touch) right side of the belly or rapid weight gain
- Tingling or numbness in your fingers or toes, having trouble doing up buttons, writing, picking up small objects, or pain / having trouble moving
- Severe headache, fatigue or general weakness, loss of balance, confusion or vision changes

Who do I contact if I have questions or need help?

My cancer health care provider is: _____

During the day I should contact: _____

Evenings, weekends and holidays: _____

Other Notes:

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms.

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.