

# Cisplatin

## *Patinol*

*This handout explains the drug cisplatin, which is used to treat cancer. The handout includes how to manage common side effects.*

### What is cisplatin?

Cisplatin is a chemotherapy drug used to treat cancer. One brand of the drug is called Patinol.

Cisplatin interferes with the process of cell division. This destroys cancer cells and slows or stops the spread of cancer.

### How do I take cisplatin?

Cisplatin is given into a vein as an *infusion*. We will also give you fluids through an *intravenous* (IV) line to make sure you stay hydrated and to protect your kidneys. You may receive fluids both before and after your infusion.

We will also give you anti-nausea medicines before your infusion.



*You will receive cisplatin as an infusion into a vein in your arm.*

### What are the side effects?

The table below and on the next pages shows side effects and what to do about them. Other side effects may also occur. **Please report any symptoms to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.**

Side Effects	What to Do
Nausea	You will receive a prescription for an anti-nausea medicine called <i>ondansetron</i> . Read your prescription for dose and timing. Call your ABTC nurse if nausea or vomiting is not eased by ondansetron. Help prevent nausea by eating small meals often during the day.

Side Effects	What to Do
<p><b>Decreased white blood cells</b> <i>Chemotherapy puts you at risk for an infection due to low white blood cell counts.</i></p>	<p>To protect yourself from infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often.</li> <li>• Avoid being in crowds and around people who are sick.</li> <li>• Bathe often.</li> </ul> <p>Call your ABTC nurse if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fever higher than 100.4°F (38°C)</li> <li>• Burning when you urinate (pee)</li> <li>• A sore that becomes red, drains, or doesn't start to heal</li> <li>• A cough with mucus</li> </ul>
<p><b>Decreased platelets</b> <i>Chemotherapy puts you at risk for a low platelet count or bleeding.</i></p>	<p>Call your ABTC nurse if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sore that oozes even when you apply pressure</li> <li>• A lot of bleeding from your gums when you brush or floss your teeth</li> <li>• A bloody nose that lasts longer than 5 minutes</li> <li>• A lot of bruising</li> <li>• See blood in your urine or stool</li> </ul> <p><b>Call 911 if you:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a sudden, severe headache</li> <li>• Cough up blood</li> <li>• Have bleeding that is ongoing and will not stop</li> </ul>
<p><b>Changes in kidney function</b></p>	<p>We will do regular blood draws to check your kidneys while you are using cisplatin.</p> <p>Call your ABTC nurse if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are urinating (peeing) less than normal</li> <li>• Have unusual swelling in your legs and feet</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hearing loss</b> <i>Loss of hearing can occur when using cisplatin.</i></p>	<p>Before you start cisplatin treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell us if you already have hearing problems.</li> <li>• You may need to have an <i>audiogram</i> (hearing test) so that we know how your hearing is before you start taking cisplatin.</li> </ul> <p>Call your ABTC nurse if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have ringing in your ears</li> <li>• Have problems hearing</li> <li>• Feel dizzy, or cannot walk or move as usual</li> </ul>

Side Effects	What to Do
<b>Hair loss</b> <i>Hair loss can occur for some people</i>	This side effect is rare. If it occurs, your hair will grow back after you are done with your treatment. In the meantime, you may choose to wear a scarf, cap, or wig.
<b>Changes in electrolytes and other blood levels</b>	We will do blood tests to check for these changes. You may not feel any symptoms for mild changes, but call your ABTC nurse if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chest discomfort</li> <li>• Weakness or fatigue</li> <li>• New aches and pains</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Urine that is red or brown</li> </ul>
<b>Numbness or tingling in your hands and feet</b>	Call your ABTC nurse if you have any changes in your sense of touch, such as a burning feeling, pain on the skin, and weakness.
<b>Fertility</b> <i>Chemotherapy may affect your ability to have a child.</i>	Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about fertility.

## Safety Warnings

### Birth Control (Contraception)

Women will have a pregnancy test and a blood draw before starting chemotherapy. While taking cisplatin:

- Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed.
- Men should not get a partner pregnant.
- Women of childbearing age and men should:
  - Use birth control during therapy and for **at least** 2 months after taking your last dose.
  - Use a barrier form of protection for 1 week after a dose, since the drug is found in bodily fluids during that time.

### Handling

Caregivers should wear gloves when cleaning up any bodily fluids, such as vomit or stool.

## Vaccines

While you are receiving cisplatin treatments:

- Do **not** receive live vaccines.
- Avoid contact with anyone who has received a live vaccine within the last 6 weeks.
- Talk with your provider **before** getting vaccinated.

## Alcohol

Please avoid alcohol on the days you take cisplatin. Talk with your ABTC team if not drinking alcohol on your chemotherapy days would be hard for you.

### Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

#### To talk with a nurse:

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.:

- For Dr. Taylor's team, call 206.597.3008
- For Dr. McGranahan's team, call 206.598.5907
- For Dr. Graber's team, call 206.597.3171
- For Dr. Venur's team, call 206.598.9467

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call our Community Care Line at 206.744.2500.