



Chemotherapy: Carboplatin (Paraplatin®)

Pronounced: "KAR-boe-pla-tin"

How drug is given: By vein (IV)

Purpose: Treatment of ovarian, breast, gynecological, lung, head & neck and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur. These symptoms are due to an allergic response. If you notice these symptoms, **call your cancer care team right away.**
- You may have nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, and/or stomach pain. Nausea and vomiting may begin soon after the drug is given and may last more than 24 hours. You will receive medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

- Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
 - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
 - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
 - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, call your cancer care team **right away.**

- Some or all of your hair may fall out around 3 to 4 weeks after treatment starts. You may lose hair on your head as well as facial and body hair. You may want to buy a wig before hair loss begins. Hair may grow back during treatment.
- You may lose some feeling, or have tingling or burning in your hands and/or feet. This is called peripheral neuropathy. This may increase with continued treatment. Please tell your cancer care team if you have trouble buttoning your clothes. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time, after the drug is stopped. To avoid cuts and falls, be careful handling sharp objects, use handrails, and wear supportive shoes.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

Sexual health and reproductive concerns

If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

Women

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for at least 1 month after your last dose if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.
- Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug

Men

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for at least 1 month after your last dose if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your cancer care team right away.