



Chemotherapy: Cisplatin (Platinol®)

Pronounced: "SIS-pla-tin"

How drug is given: By vein (IV)

Purpose: To treat lung cancer, bladder cancer, testicular cancer, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, head and neck cancer, 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 and should be reported to your cancer care team **right away**.
- If you feel any burning or tingling in the area of your IV, please tell **your nurse right away**. If you develop any swelling or redness after you go home, call your cancer care team.
- Moderate to severe nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. This can happen 1 to 2 hours after the drug is given and may continue 1 to 5 days or longer. Drugs to help with this will be given to you.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

- Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. This includes a decrease in:
 - 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

If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **tell your cancer care team right away**.

- Your kidneys could be hurt by this drug and not work as well. You will be given a large amount of fluid in your vein before you get cisplatin to try to help prevent this problem. It is also very **important** that you try to drink 2 to 3 quarts (about 12 glasses) of fluid a day for 2 to 3 days after treatment. Your cancer team will monitor your kidneys with blood and urine tests.
- 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.

- Some important minerals called electrolytes are found in your blood and body fluids. They can be affected by this medicine. Your cancer care team may check your blood periodically to monitor your magnesium and sodium levels.
- In rare cases, a special problem with nerves called *reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome (RPLS)* may occur. Patients might have a headache, nausea, feel sleepy or confused, have a change in eyesight, and have seizures or other problems. This can happen 16 hours to one year after starting cisplatin. Early treatment can help, but delayed treatment can result in more permanent damage. Call your cancer care team if you have any of the symptoms noted above.

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

- You may have ringing in your ears or not be able to hear as well. This is more common with very high doses of cisplatin and may not improve. Hearing tests may be done.
- You may have changes in your eyesight which include blurred vision or changes in how you see color. This is more common with high doses of cisplatin. Eye exams may be done.

Sexual health and fertility

Women

- It is not safe to take this medicine during pregnancy. It could harm an unborn baby.
- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm 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 if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
- Men can become sterile and may want to consider sperm banking prior to treatment.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The information in this document includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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 are taking other medications. Please speak 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.