



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Carboplatin

How carboplatin is given:

- Carboplatin is given by infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV)

Carboplatin side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of carboplatin:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving carboplatin:

- Low blood counts (including red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets)
- Nausea and vomiting usually occurring within 24 hours of treatment
- Taste changes
- Hair loss
- Weakness
- Low magnesium levels in the blood

These are less common side effects for patients receiving carboplatin:

- Burning sensation at the injection site
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Mouth sores
- Infection
- Kidney damage: More frequent when carboplatin is given in high doses or to people with kidney problems
- Hearing loss - loss of high pitched sounds
- Abnormal blood electrolyte levels (sodium, potassium, calcium)
- Abnormal blood liver enzymes (SGOT, Alkaline phosphatase)
- Allergic reaction may occur. It would occur during the actual transfusion. This may include itching, rash, shortness of breath or dizziness.

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101 or higher, or chills (possible signs of infection).
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools or urine
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medications)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24-hour period)
- Severe abdominal pain
- Lip or mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Muscle cramps or twitching
- Change in hearing
- Dizziness, confusion or visual changes

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.