



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Cisplatin

Trade names: Platinol®

Drug type:

Cisplatin is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

How cisplatin is given:

- Cisplatin is administered through a vein (intravenously or IV).
- Cisplatin is an irritant. An irritant is a chemical that can cause inflammation of the vein through which it is given.
- If cisplatin escapes from the vein it can cause tissue damage. If you experience pain or notice redness or swelling at the IV site while you are receiving cisplatin, alert your nurse immediately.
- Before and/or after the cisplatin infusion, extra IV fluids are given, care is taken to ensure adequate hydration before, during and after cisplatin, to protect your kidney function.

Cisplatin side effects:

Important things to remember about Cisplatin side effects:

- 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 cisplatin:

- Nausea and vomiting. Nausea may last up to 1 week after therapy. Anti-nausea medication is given before the infusion, and a prescription is also given for use after.
- Kidney toxicity. Effects on kidney function are dose related, observed 10-20 days after therapy, and are generally reversible.
- Blood test abnormalities (low magnesium, low calcium, low potassium)
- Low white blood cells
- Low red blood cells

These are less common side effects for patients receiving cisplatin:

- Peripheral neuropathy: Although less common, a serious side effect of decreased sensation (numbness and tingling of the extremities) may be noted. This may last for at least as long as therapy is continued. These side effects may become progressively more severe with continued treatment, and your doctor may decide to decrease your dose. Neurologic effects may be irreversible.
- High frequency hearing loss/ringing in the ears.
- Loss of appetite
- Taste changes, metallic taste
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function; these return to normal once treatment is discontinued
- Hair loss
- Your fertility, meaning your ability to conceive or father a child, may be affected by Cisplatin. Please discuss this issue with your health care provider

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°F or higher, or chills (possible signs of infection)

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:

- Nausea (unable to drink fluids and unrelieved with prescription medication)
- Vomiting (more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- No urine output in a 12 hour period
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools or urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Swelling, redness and pain in one leg or arm and not the other
- Yellowing of the skin or eye

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