

Side Effects	What You Should Do	Prevention
<p>More Common:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruising or bleeding Black, tar-like bowel movements Red spots on skin Low platelet count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If bleeding or bruising is unusual or will not stop, contact your doctor or nurse immediately or go directly to the local Emergency Department. Do not take ASA (Aspirin®); use acetaminophen (Tylenol®) instead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use sharp objects with care. Use a soft toothbrush. Be careful when shaving. Tell your doctor before any dental work is done.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs of infection/ fever, chills, cough Low white blood cells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep a thermometer at home. Recognize the signs of infection. If your temperature is over 38°C or 100°F, go directly to the local Emergency Department. You may have an infection and need antibiotics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit contact with people who are sick or have colds. Rest often. Wash your hands often.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nausea and vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If vomiting is severe, contact your doctor or nurse right away. If you vomit within one hour of taking antiemetic tablets, you may take another dose of the antiemetic tablets. A suppository may be ordered if you cannot keep the tablets down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your doctor can order medicine for nausea and vomiting. Continue drinking clear fluids. Get fresh air and rest.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiredness or weakness Signs of anemia. Low hemoglobin levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if this bothers you. Otherwise, tell your doctor or nurse at your next visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rest when feeling tired or weak. Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery. Eat well-balanced meals.
<p>Less Common:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trouble with urination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink eight full glasses of fluid per day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constipation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try a natural or over-the-counter laxative to maintain regular bowel movements. Ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist for advice, especially if you have not had a bowel movement in two or three days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat a high fiber diet with whole grains, fruit and raw vegetables. Light daily exercise. Drink plenty of fluids.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If symptoms are severe, call your doctor or nurse right away. For less severe diarrhea, contact your doctor or nurse if it lasts longer than 24 to 48 hours, or if you feel weak. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit hot, spicy, and fried foods; limit foods and drinks with caffeine. Avoid high fibre foods, such as bran, nuts, fruits and vegetables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of appetite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high calorie meal plan is a good idea when you are not eating much. Consult your dietitian for more information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have several small meals a day. Eat slowly. Light exercise and fresh air may help. Drink plenty of fluids.
<p>Rare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seizures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go directly to the local Emergency Department and contact your doctor or nurse. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair loss (from head and body) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your hair will regrow, once all your treatments are over. A wig, hat, cap, scarf or hairpiece may be worn. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trouble in walking, numbness or tingling in fingers, toes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible 	

Precautions:

- Drink plenty of fluids. Eight glasses of fluid a day is recommended.
- Due to increased risk of infection check with your doctor or nurse before having any vaccinations.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, minerals, and herbal products.
- Carboplatin is a chemotherapy drug. Be careful that your family avoids any exposure to the drug from cleaning up if you vomit or have an incontinent accident. Your nurse will give you instructions on how to protect others in your home in case of exposure to the drug through your bodily fluids.
- Kidney disease or hearing problems may become worse while taking carboplatin. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have had trouble with kidney disease or with hearing in the past.
- It is important to tell your doctor or nurse if you have chicken pox (or have recently been exposed to someone who has had chickenpox), shingles, gout or kidney stones. Any of these conditions could affect therapy with this medication.
- If a doctor has advised you to take ASA (Aspirin®) to prevent heart disease or stroke, tell your cancer doctor about this before you start cancer treatment. Otherwise, DO NOT take ASA for daily aches and pains during chemotherapy treatment; use acetaminophen (Tylenol®) products instead. (Check with your doctor or pharmacist if a product contains ASA or acetaminophen.)
- This drug alone, or in combination with other chemotherapy drugs, may cause fatigue, reduced sex drive, reduced sexual satisfaction and changes to any intimate relationships for both men and women.
- You and your partner should avoid a pregnancy while taking carboplatin. Birth control pills alone may not be effective for contraception. It is important to discuss the most effective birth control with your doctor.
- Carboplatin should not be used if you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- Carboplatin may cause permanent changes in your menstrual cycle and your ability to have children in the future. Ask your doctor or nurse for more information.

This information sheet does not contain all known information about this drug
For more information on this medication, please call your doctor, pharmacist or nurse

(Phone Number for your Doctor or Nurse)

Or call the Canadian Cancer Society's
Cancer Information Service at
1-888-939-3333
or at
www.cancer.ca

Collaborative Project of:
Systemic Therapy Program, Cancer Care Nova Scotia
New Brunswick Cancer Network, Division of New Brunswick Dept.
of Health

Approved by the Nova Scotia Cancer Patient Education Committee
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(1-866-599-2236)

CNB 7645

MEDICATION INFO SHEET

CARBOPLATIN (KAR-boe-pla-tin)

Other names for this medication:

Paraplatin® (Brand Name) Other generic products available

Appearance:

Injection: Clear, colourless liquid for injection into the bloodstream.

Why this medication is used:

This medication is mainly used in the treatment of ovarian cancer. Sometimes it is used in the treatment of brain, lung and testicular cancer. It may also be used for the treatment of other cancers.

How do you take this medication:

Injection: Your chemotherapy nurse will inject the medication into your bloodstream over a period of 1/2 to 1 hour.