

Side Effects**What You Should Do****Prevention****More Common:**

- Signs of infection/ fever, chills, cough
- Low white blood cells

- 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.

- Limit contact with people who are sick or have colds. Rest often. Wash your hands often.

- Nausea and vomiting

- 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.

- Your doctor can order medicine for nausea and vomiting. Continue drinking clear fluids. Get fresh air and rest.

- Joint pain, loss of balance
- Ringing in ears, hearing loss

- Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible.

Less Common:

- Bruising or bleeding
- Black, tar-like bowel movements
- Red spots on skin
- Low platelet count

- 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.

- Use sharp objects with care. Use a soft toothbrush. Be careful when shaving. Tell your doctor before any dental work is done.

- Tiredness or weakness
- Signs of anemia. Low hemoglobin levels

- Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if this bothers you. Otherwise, tell your doctor or nurse at your next visit.

- Rest when feeling tired or weak. Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery. Eat well-balanced meals.

- Trouble with urination

- Contact your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY.

- Drink eight full glasses of fluid per day.

- Loss of reflexes, trouble in walking
- Numbness or tingling in fingers, toes

- Contact your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY.

- Erectile dysfunction in men

- Check with your doctor or nurse at your next appointment, or sooner if these symptoms bother you.

- Consider sperm banking if planning a family in future

Rare:

- Agitation, confusion, vision changes
- Signs of an allergic reaction soon after treatment
- Difficulty breathing, short of breath, rash over body, swelling of face

- Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible.
- Tell your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY if you have these symptoms while in the hospital or clinic.
- If symptoms occur away from hospital or clinic, go to the local Emergency Department immediately.

Precautions:

- It is important to tell your doctor if you are taking the medications phenytoin, furosemide or lithium before starting cisplatin treatment. Tell your doctor and/or pharmacist about all medications you are taking, including over the counter medication, vitamins and herbal products.
- Cisplatin 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 cisplatin. Tell your doctor if you have had trouble with kidney disease or with hearing in the past.
- It is important to tell your doctor 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.
- Tell all other doctors or dentists at each visit that you are taking cisplatin, before you receive surgery (including dental work), vaccinations or treatment from them.
- 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 cisplatin. Birth control pills alone may not be effective for contraception. It is important to discuss the most effective birth control with your doctor.
- Cisplatin should not be used if you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- Cisplatin 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
Visit our Web site at: www.cancercare.ns.ca

© Crown copyright, Province of Nova Scotia, 2008. May be
reprinted with permission from Cancer Care Nova Scotia
(1-866-599-2236)

MEDICATION INFO SHEET

CISPLATIN (SISS-pla-tin)

Other names for this medication:

Platinol® (Brand Name) Other generic products available
CDDP (Other Name)

Appearance:

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

Why this medication is used:

Cisplatin can be used along with other medications to treat cancers of the cervix, ovary, testicles, lung, stomach and bladder. 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 2 hours. You may also be given additional intravenous fluids before and after the chemotherapy or you may be asked to drink extra fluids before and after chemotherapy.