

## Patient information Leaflet for Cisplatin

It is a chemotherapy drug which is used for the treatment of many cancers such as head neck, esophagus, lung, breast, cervix, urinary tract and testis. Cisplatin is given as injection in vein over 1 -2 hours. It is usually given along with radiation as a radio sensitizer, even alone, or in combination with other chemotherapy drugs. It must be taken under the supervision of a doctor who is experienced in giving chemotherapy medications for cancer.

### Before Using It

Inform of any medical illness such as **kidney disorder**, hearing problems, congestive heart failure, tingling in hands and feet, heart disease, low blood counts and platelets, pregnancy, breast feeding and **drug allergy**. The above information will be useful to adjust the dose of your medicine.

*Please inform your doctor if you have any kidney problem in the past.*

*Please use some kind of birth control while you are on chemotherapy.*

*Please avoid using any ayurvedic or homeopathic preparation while on chemotherapy.*

### While Taking it.

Cisplatin may interact with a number of drugs and supplements, which may either raise or lower the level of cisplatin in your blood. Also certain drugs which can damage the kidney are to be avoided if possible along with cisplatin. Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:

- Drug which can harm your kidney when given along with Cisplatin: Antibiotics (Amikacin, Genatamicin, Vancomycin), Pain killers (naproxen, ibuprofen, diclofenac)
- Anti-seizure drugs (Phenytoin/Phenobarbital/Carbamazepine)
- Pyridoxine ( Vitamin B6)

### How is it administered?

Cisplatin is given through a vein over 1-2 hours. A liter of extra fluids with some added potassium and magnesium are given before and after cisplatin so as to reduce kidney damage caused by this drug. It is repeated weekly when given along with radiation or else thrice weekly when given alone or with other chemotherapy drugs. 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 doctor/nurse immediately.

## Possible side effects

You will probably not have most of the following side effects, but if you have any talk to your doctor or nurse. They can help you understand the side effects and cope with them. Each person's reaction to chemotherapy is different. Some people have very few side effects while others may experience more. Cisplatin side effects are almost always predictable and reversible and will go away after treatment is complete.

### COMMON SIDE EFFECTS: (> 10%)

- Nausea and vomiting
- Kidney toxicity
- Low sodium and potassium in your body
- Ringing in ears, hearing loss

### Precautions/ steps to be taken to minimize side effects

1. Drink plenty of fluids with at least 2 liters of fluids (water, fruit juices (tetra pack) and milk) per day. Plenty of fluids should start 12 hours prior cisplatin and continued 24 -48 hours after cisplatin. Drink in small amounts but frequently.
2. You will be given a prescription for drug(s) to take after your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home, as it is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it. Tablet dexamethasone 4 mg twice per day along with Tablet domperidone 10 mg thrice per day for three days after chemotherapy.
3. If you experience any of the following symptoms, inform your health care professional before taking next dose of cisplatin :
  - i. Decreased urination; swelling of the face, hands, feet, ankles, unusual tiredness or weakness.
  - ii. Hearing loss ( for high pitch sounds), Imbalance, ringing in the ears, or dizziness.
  - iii. Pain, sensations of burning or tingling, usually in the hands or feet

### LESS COMMON SIDE EFFECTS: (1-10%)

- Decreased sensation, numbness and tingling of the extremities, sensory loss. ( Neuropathy)
- Hair loss

- Low blood counts and infection
- Low platelet count/bleeding
- Altered taste/ Loss of appetite

**RARE SIDE EFFECTS: (< 1%)**

- Allergic reaction
- Acute kidney failure
- Blockage of vessels of heart or brain.
- Seizures.
- Infertility