

# Carboplatin

|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Names                                                    | The generic drug name is carboplatin (kar'' boe pla' tin). Paraplatin® is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| How is it Given?                                         | In most cases, carboplatin is given by infusion into a vein (intravenous or IV injection), usually every 4 weeks. If the cancer is in the ovaries or digestive tract, carboplatin may be placed directly into the peritoneal cavity in your abdomen (intraperitoneal therapy).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Why am I Taking Carboplatin?                             | Carboplatin is used to treat cancers of the ovary, lung, bladder, breast, head & neck, endometrium (lining of the uterus), cervix, testicles, and some types of brain tumors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| How Does it Work?                                        | <p>Cancers are diseases in which abnormal cells reproduce uncontrollably. Your chemotherapy (chemo) schedule is based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• your cancer type and how fast the cancer cells reproduce</li><li>• the phase of the cell cycle when the drug is most effective</li></ul> <p>Carboplatin is in a class of drugs known as platinum-containing compounds (metal salt). It is an alkylating agent and works by slowing or stopping the growth of the cancer cells.</p> <p>Many chemo medications identify and attack cancer cells because they reproduce quickly. Some cells in your body normally reproduce quickly and are more likely to be damaged or destroyed by chemo. These normal cells will eventually grow back and be healthy. During treatment, however, you may experience side effects.</p> |
| What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Carboplatin? | <p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have had an allergic reaction to carboplatin or other medications</li><li>• have kidney disease, bleeding problems, or an infection of any kind</li><li>• have ever taken any platinum-containing compounds</li><li>• are pregnant or breastfeeding</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Low blood counts - low levels of white blood cells, red blood cells, and/or platelets, which can increase your risk for infection, fatigue, and/or bleeding
- Nausea and vomiting (usually within 24 hours of infusion)
- Changes in how food tastes, loss of appetite or weight, stomach pain
- Thin or brittle hair, hair loss
- Fatigue, weakness
- Diarrhea and/or constipation
- Mouth or throat sores

### How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- To help avoid infections, stay away from people with colds or other infections. Wash your hands often. Talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations, such as a flu shot.
- If you are fatigued, take rests during the day, limit your activities, and do an activity at a time of day when you have more energy. Learn to ask for and accept help with household and daily chores.
- Be careful when handling sharp objects. Avoid rough sports or other situations that could cause bruising or injury. Use an electric razor. Be careful when using a toothbrush or dental floss (your doctor may recommend other ways to clean your teeth and gums).
- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- To help prevent constipation or dehydration from vomiting or diarrhea, drink plenty (2-3 quarts every day) of fluids, especially water, unless your doctor gives you different instructions. Add high fiber foods such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to your diet and, if possible, keep moving throughout the day. If you have constipation, do not use laxatives or enemas without getting your doctor's permission first.
- Mouth care is very important. To minimize mouth problems, rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with a soft toothbrush. (Soften it further by running it under warm water). Avoid smoking, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors, and wear protective clothing that covers your skin.
- Do not put anything on a rash unless your doctor approves it.

## When Should I Call the Doctor?

### **Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- any sign of infection: fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation.
- any sign of an allergic reaction: itching; hives; swelling in your face, hands, throat; trouble breathing; dizziness, or palpitations
- difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain

### **Call your doctor as soon as possible (within 24 hours) if you have:**

- unusual bruising or bleeding: bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae)
- decreased urination
- yellowing of skin or eyes
- numbness, tingling, or burning in your hands, arms, feet, or legs (peripheral neuropathy)
- diarrhea 4 times in 1 day or diarrhea with weakness
- swelling of your feet or ankles
- pain in your back or side
- nausea, vomiting, or mouth blisters that do not respond to prescribed medication and/or make it difficult to eat or drink

## What Else Should I Know About Carboplatin?

- Carboplatin may interfere with the menstrual cycle in women and may stop sperm production in men. Do NOT assume that you cannot get pregnant or father a child. Both men and women should use a reliable method of birth control to prevent pregnancy. Barrier methods, such as condoms, are recommended. Carboplatin may harm the fetus.
- Keep all your appointments with your doctor and the lab.
- If you are over 65, you have a greater risk of side effects that affect the brain. Tell your doctor if you have confusion or changes in vision/ hearing.
- Carboplatin may cause kidney problems when given in high doses or to people who already have kidney disease.
- If you would like more information about carboplatin, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.