**CARBOplatin**  (KAR-boe-pla-tin)

*This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.*

**Other Name:** Generic brand(s) available

**Appearance:** Clear, colourless solution mixed into larger bags of fluids

**What is this medication for?**
For treating ovarian cancer and other cancers.

**What should I do before I have this medication?**

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had kidney disease, hearing problems, or any allergies, especially to other similar drugs such as oxaliplatin or cisplatin.
- People who have cancer or leukemia are at a higher risk of developing other cancers/leukemias (usually some years later) or blood clots. Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a prolonged period of time. You should discuss any concerns with your doctor.

**How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?**

- CARBOplatin may harm the unborn baby. Do not use this drug if you are pregnant. If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must:►
  **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while taking this drug: Keep using birth control until 6 months after the last dose (general recommendation). Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this drug.
- Effects on Fertility: Unknown

**How is this medication given?**

- This drug is given by injection into a vein.
What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- This medication can interact with other medications and can result in the treatment not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your health care team knows about all your medications (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- For mild aches and pain:
  - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your health care team about the right dose for you.
  - Talk to your health care team first before starting ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, ASA), since these may increase your chance of bleeding.
  - If you are already taking aspirin regularly, such as for heart conditions; Do not stop it- talk to your health care team first.
  - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before using any of these drugs. They may hide a fever. **Phone your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away if you have a fever.** See the [Fever pamphlet](#) for more information.
  - Drink plenty of fluids. Eight glasses of fluid a day is recommended.

What are the side effects of this medication?

The following side effects are common or severe. You may not have all of the side effects. Other side effects may occur. If you have any unusual or bothersome symptoms, discuss with your doctor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side effects and what to do</th>
<th>When to contact doctor?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>More Common Side Effects</strong></td>
<td>Get emergency medical help right away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unusual bleeding or bruising</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>You may have black stools, cough up blood, blood in your urine, purple or red dots on your skin or bleeding that will not stop.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fever, chills, infection</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- <strong>38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### More Common Side Effects

**While you are getting chemotherapy treatments:**

- Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills).
- Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever.
- Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature.
- Wash your hands often.
- Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries or visiting your dentist.

**If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room.**

See our [Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count)](pamphlet) pamphlet for more information.

#### Nausea and vomiting

- May occur in hours to days after the dose is given/after treatment starts.
- Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest.
- Limit spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell.
- Take anti-nausea drug(s) exactly as directed by your doctor. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it.
- Contact your doctor if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting for more than 24 hours.
- Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet.*

#### Abnormal liver lab tests

- Your doctor will monitor these regularly. Call your doctor if you have yellowish skin or eyes, or unusual dark urine.

#### Kidney problems (may be severe)

*Lower back pain, body swelling, passing little or no urine, or recent unusual weight gain*

- Get emergency medical help right away

#### Hearing loss

- Contact your health care team as soon as possible

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*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: [http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo](http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo)  
Prepared with input from the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.  
April 2016*
### Side effects and what to do

#### More Common Side Effects

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<td><strong>Salt imbalances</strong> (muscle twitching, severe weakness or cramping, confusion, irregular heartbeat)</td>
<td>Get emergency medical help right away</td>
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</table>

#### Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe

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<tr>
<td><strong>Tingling, numb fingers and toes (may be severe, seizures in rare cases)</strong></td>
<td>Contact your health care team as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• May slowly return to normal after treatment ends.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Contact your doctor or nurse if you have trouble doing up buttons, writing, picking up small objects, have pain or trouble with movement.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Allergic reaction</strong> (fever, severe rash, itchiness, swollen face, lip or tongue, chest or throat tightness; may occur during or shortly after the drug is given)</td>
<td>Get emergency medical help right away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blockage of an artery</strong> (blood vessel) in your heart, brain, chest, belly, or limbs; this may result in stroke (sudden loss of vision, speech, or the use of your limb(s)) or heart attack (chest pain, shortness of breath), or pain in chest, belly or limb</td>
<td>Get emergency medical help right away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sudden onset of kidney failure, bleeding, breakdown of red blood cells</strong></td>
<td>Get emergency medical help right away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blood clot</strong> (limb pain or swelling, hardened vein in limb), may occur in lungs (sudden start of coughing, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)</td>
<td>Get emergency medical help right away</td>
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For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to [www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms](http://www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms).

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the “Formulary”) is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

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A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.

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