Carboplatin

Patient Education Sheets
Understanding Your Cancer Treatment

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is used for ovarian cancer.
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Carboplatin (KAR-boh-pla-tin): Paraplatin (par-uh-PLAT-in)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by damaging the genetic material that cancer cells need to multiply.	Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion).

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Treatment is typically repeated every 3 or 4 weeks. This length of time is called a "cycle." Carboplatin is often given in combination with other treatments. Talk with your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.

☐ **Option 1: 3-Week Cycle**

- Carboplatin is given on Day 1.

Treatment Name	Cycle 1								Next Cycle
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	…	Day 21	Day 1
Carboplatin	✓								✓

☐ **Option 2: 4-Week Cycle**

- Carboplatin is given on Day 1.

Treatment Name	Cycle 1								Next Cycle
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	…	Day 28	Day 1
Carboplatin	✓								✓

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Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, treatment appointments, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss an appointment, call your care team as soon as possible to reschedule it.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting		
To help lower the risk of infusion-related reactions		
Other		

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Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection (Boxed Warning)	Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of infection. Recommendations: • Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. • Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick. • Follow food safety and wound care advice from your care team. • Your care team may prescribe medicine to help your WBCs recover. Talk to your care team if you have: • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills • New or worsening cough or sore throat • Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection • Feeling much more tired than usual • Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)
Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia) (Boxed Warning)	Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding. Recommendations: • Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and keep good oral hygiene. • Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers. • Avoid over-the-counter medicines that can increase bleeding risk (for example, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen). • Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures — you may need to pause treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • A nosebleed lasting more than 5 minutes despite pressure • A cut that continues to bleed • Heavy gum bleeding when brushing or flossing • Sudden or severe headache • Blood in your urine or stool • Blood in your spit after coughing
Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia) (Boxed Warning)	Description: Red blood cells carry oxygen throughout your body. Low levels can make you feel tired, weak, dizzy, or short of breath. Recommendations: • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired. • Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed. • Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team. Talk to your care team if you have: • Shortness of breath • Dizziness or fainting • Fast or irregular heartbeats • Sudden or severe headache

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Nausea and Vomiting (Boxed Warning)	Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit. Recommendations: • Eat smaller, more frequent meals. • Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods. • Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids. • If you vomit, start with small sips of water, broth, or other clear liquids. If these stay down, try soft foods (such as gelatin, plain cornstarch pudding, yogurt, strained soup, or strained cooked cereal) and gradually return to solid foods. • Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms. Talk to your care team if you have: • Vomiting for more than 24 hours • Nonstop vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Blood in your vomit or vomit that looks like coffee grounds • Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting
Liver Problems	Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice) • Severe nausea or vomiting • Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen) • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
Diarrhea	Description: Diarrhea means having bowel movements more often than usual. Your stools may also be loose or watery. If you have diarrhea: • Keep track of how often you have diarrhea. • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or fluids each day. Do this unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Eat small meals with low-fiber foods. Try bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, or toast. • Avoid high-fiber foods. These include raw vegetables, fruit, and whole grains. • Avoid foods that may cause gas. These include broccoli and beans. • Avoid milk, yogurt, and other dairy foods. • Avoid spicy, fried, or greasy foods. • Your care team may recommend medicine for diarrhea. One example is loperamide (Imodium). Talk to your care team if you have: • An increase of 4 or more bowel movements than usual in one day • Dizziness or lightheadedness while you have diarrhea • Signs of dehydration, such as feeling very thirsty, dizzy, or having dark urine • Blood in your stool

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Muscle or Joint Pain or Weakness	Description: Muscle pain is soreness, aching, cramps, stiffness, tenderness, or weakness in one or more muscles. Joint pain is pain, stiffness, swelling, or reduced movement where two bones meet. Recommendations: • Keep a pain diary: note pain levels, locations, and activities that make it better or worse. • Do gentle exercise (walking, stretching, yoga) to maintain mobility and strength. Check with your care team before starting a new activity. • Use a warm compress for stiff muscles or a cold pack to reduce swelling and numb pain—use what helps the area. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicines, including over-the-counter pain relievers. Talk to your care team if you have: • Pain you cannot control with usual measures • Swelling, redness, or warmth in a joint • New weakness • Trouble walking or moving
Hair Loss (Alopecia)	Description: Hair loss or thinning may begin days to weeks after treatment starts and usually grows back later. New growth can be a different color or texture and may not look the same as before. Recommendations: • Consider a short haircut before treatment and use scarves, hats, or wigs for comfort and confidence. • Keep your head covered outdoors to protect it from the sun and cold; apply sunscreen to your exposed scalp. • Use gentle haircare: mild shampoo, soft brush, and avoid heat styling and harsh treatments. • Ask your care team about wig prescriptions or resources for head coverings. Talk to your care team if you have: • No hair regrowth months after treatment ends • Concern about hair changes or need help finding a wig or support resources
Pain	Description: Pain is an uncomfortable feeling that can happen anywhere in your body and can vary in intensity. It can be sharp, throbbing, aching, or burning, and it may feel like discomfort or pressure. Recommendations: • Keep a pain diary to track the frequency, duration, and intensity of your pain. • Your care team may recommend medicines for pain. Talk to your care team if you have: • Uncontrolled pain

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Changes in Electrolytes and Other Laboratory Results	Description: Treatment may cause low levels of sodium, calcium, magnesium, and potassium. Your care team will perform blood tests to check for these changes and will treat you if needed. Talk to your care team if you have: • New or worsening confusion, drowsiness, or trouble thinking • Severe headache or nausea/vomiting • Sudden weakness, unsteadiness, or trouble walking • Severe muscle cramps or spasms • Tingling or numbness around the mouth, hands, fingers, feet, or toes • New weakness or trouble breathing • Confusion, fainting, lightheadedness, or seizures • Sudden weight gain • Swelling of your arms, hands, legs, or ankles • Extreme fatigue • New or worsening muscle spasms, weakness, twitches, tremors, or cramps • Nausea, vomiting, or loss of appetite • Irregular, fast, or pounding heartbeat, or chest pain • Severe constipation or stomach-area (abdominal) pain

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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Allergic Reactions, Including Anaphylaxis (Boxed Warning)	Get emergency medical help right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms: • Swelling of your lips, mouth, tongue, or throat • Trouble breathing or swallowing • Raised red areas on your skin (hives) • A very fast heartbeat • You feel dizzy or faint
Kidney Problems	• Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine • Swelling of your ankles • Loss of appetite
Eye Problems	• Dry or red eyes • Eye pain or swelling • Vision changes • Increased tears • Sensitivity to light • Blurred vision
Hearing Loss	• New or worsening hearing loss • Ringing, buzzing, or other noises in your ears (tinnitus) • Trouble understanding speech or needing higher volume on devices • Dizziness or balance problems
Numbness, Tingling, or Burning in Your Hands or Feet (Peripheral Neuropathy)	• New or worsening “pins and needles,” burning, or numbness in your hands or feet • Trouble moving your arms or legs or weakness • Problems with balance or frequent falls
Extravasation	Extravasation happens when medicine that is supposed to go into a vein leaks out into the tissues around it. This can cause pain, swelling, and damage to the skin and tissues. Carboplatin may cause extravasation. • Pain, burning, or stinging at the infusion site • Swelling, redness, or blistering around the site • Coolness or numbness in the area • Decreased blood flow or tissue damage, potentially leading to ulcers or tissue death in severe cases

Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.

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Intimacy, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body.** However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
    - If you are able to become pregnant:
        - Your care team will verify your pregnancy status before treatment.
        - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 3 to 6 months after your last dose of carboplatin.
        - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
    - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment and for 3 to 6 months after your last dose of carboplatin.
- **Do not breastfeed** during treatment with carboplatin.

Handling Body Fluids and Waste

Some drugs you receive may stay in your urine, stool, sweat, or vomit for many days after treatment. Because many cancer drugs are toxic, your body waste may also be dangerous to touch. To help protect yourself, your loved ones, and the environment, **follow these instructions** for at least **48 hours** after each dose of **carboplatin**:

- People who are pregnant should avoid touching anything that may be soiled with body fluids from the patient.
- You can use your usual toilet. Always close the lid and flush to discard all waste. If you have a low-flow toilet, flush twice.
- If the toilet or seat is soiled with urine, stool, or vomit, clean the surface after each use before others use it.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using the toilet.
- If you need a bedpan, inform your caregiver so they can wear gloves and assist with cleanup. Wash the bedpan with soap and water daily.
- If you cannot control your bladder or bowels, use a disposable pad with a plastic back, a diaper, or a sheet to absorb waste.
- Wash any skin exposed to body waste with soap and water.
- Wash soiled linens or clothing separately from other laundry. If you don't have a washer, place them in a plastic bag until they can be washed.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after touching soiled linens or clothing.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take**.
  This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
  Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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Notes

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Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.

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The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated to gather information and develop this patient education guide. This guide is a summary of the medication, based on information provided by the drug manufacturer and other sources.

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