MEDICINE INFORMATION

Cisplatin for heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC)

Patient information about heated cisplatin given inside the abdomen during surgery and what to watch for during recovery.

At a glance

Treatment	Cisplatin
When it may be used	The OVHIPEC-1 study looked at cisplatin HIPEC during surgery after initial chemotherapy for selected people with stage III epithelial ovarian cancer.
How it is given	The surgical team circulates warmed cisplatin inside the abdomen while you are under anaesthesia.
Before you start	Ask why HIPEC is being offered alongside surgery.

What this treatment is and how it works

HIPEC stands for heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy. It circulates warmed chemotherapy inside the abdomen during an operation. This sheet describes HIPEC with cisplatin.

When it may be used

Eligibility and expected benefit depend on the cancer and surgical plan. Your surgeon can explain what evidence applies to you.

Before treatment

Tell the team about kidney or heart problems, hearing changes, previous cisplatin and other medicines.

How treatment is given

Under anaesthesia, the surgical team removes visible tumour as planned and uses warmed cisplatin inside the abdomen. Afterwards they monitor you while you recover from the operation and chemotherapy.

Tests and monitoring during treatment

The team checks kidney function, salts such as magnesium, urine output and blood counts. They also check the wound, bowel recovery, pain and ability to eat and drink.

Side effects

Common or more frequent side effects

- **Pain, tiredness and changes in appetite.** Recovery depends on the organs involved in the operation. Ask what to expect for your wound and pain medicines, and when to build up walking and daily activities. Let the team know if pain is increasing rather than improving, or if food and drink are hard to manage.
- **Changes in bowel function.** The bowel can take time to start working again after abdominal surgery. Your team will explain when to drink and eat, and will check bowel movements or stoma output if relevant. Call if vomiting recurs, your abdomen becomes increasingly swollen or you stop passing stools or wind and feel unwell.

Other reported side effects

Tell staff about ringing in your ears, reduced urine, ongoing vomiting or new swelling. Ask about signs of wound or bowel problems.

Serious effects to recognise

- **Complications after abdominal surgery.** Fever, worsening belly pain or swelling, repeated vomiting, wound discharge, or a marked change in stoma output should be reported urgently. Ask at discharge which team to call even if you are recovering far from the hospital.
- **Kidney injury.** The team uses blood and urine tests to check your kidney function after cisplatin. Feelings of thirst can be unreliable after a major operation. Tell staff promptly if you are passing much less urine or cannot keep fluids down.

When to seek urgent help

Tell ward staff or call the surgical team urgently for fever, worsening belly pain, repeated vomiting, much less urine, spreading redness or discharge from the wound, or a swollen painful leg.

Seek emergency care for severe breathing difficulty, swelling of the face or throat, chest pain, collapse or bleeding that will not stop.

Practical advice for this treatment

Ask what may happen on the day of surgery

Heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) is given inside the abdomen during an operation. Ask the surgeon what findings during the operation could change the plan, which part is aimed at removing disease, and when the family will hear an update. Discuss whether the operation could affect bowel function or require a stoma.

Learn how your kidney function is protected

Cisplatin can affect the kidneys even when it is used inside the abdomen. The team checks blood and urine and gives fluids. Some cisplatin HIPEC protocols also use sodium thiosulfate to reduce kidney injury. Ask which approach your hospital uses and when kidney and blood salt tests will be repeated.

Watch for problems as you recover

Allow time for help with food, walking and wound care after you go home. Report repeated vomiting, swelling or pain that is worsening, fever, much less urine, or a wound that becomes red or starts leaking. Ask who to contact overnight and when a symptom should take you straight to hospital.

Medicines, interactions and vaccinations

Ask which medicines to stop before surgery and when to restart them. Tell the team about blood thinners and anti-inflammatory painkillers.

Everyday life

Ask about help with meals, walking, wound care and travel home. Get the surgical contact number and a plan for eating, activity and follow-up.

Pregnancy, fertility and breastfeeding

Ask how the operation and chemotherapy may affect fertility, pregnancy plans or breastfeeding. Discuss fertility preservation before surgery if relevant.

After treatment

The team will review the surgical findings, kidney recovery and any further treatment needed. Report ongoing hearing changes, pain, or bowel and nutrition problems.

Frequently asked questions

Does HIPEC replace other chemotherapy?

Ask how the operation and HIPEC fit with chemotherapy before or after surgery.

Will I be awake during HIPEC?

No. It is given as part of the operation under anaesthesia.

Why do you check urine output?

Cisplatin and major surgery can affect the kidneys. The team checks urine output and blood tests while you recover. After you go home, call the surgical team if you pass much less urine than usual or cannot keep fluids down.

What should I ask about the operation itself?

Ask what will be removed, how long recovery may take and which complications apply to you.

When might I be able to eat again?

The team will advise as your bowel recovers. It depends on the operation and how you are recovering.

What if pain worsens after discharge?

Call the surgical team, especially if you also have fever, vomiting, or abdominal swelling.

Is the operation different from having cisplatin by drip?

Yes. With HIPEC, the surgeon circulates heated chemotherapy around the abdomen for a limited time during surgery. Your team may also recommend chemotherapy through a vein on separate dates.

Individual medicine guides

- Cisplatin

Sources and further reading

Read this guide alongside your hospital's plan. Ask your pharmacist to confirm the exact product dispensed in India and follow the instructions for that product.

Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) and prescribing information

The SmPC covers the injectable medicine. The HIPEC references below cover its use as heated chemotherapy in the abdomen.

- Cisplatin injection - UK SmPC

Additional sources

- OVHIPEC-1 long-term randomised trial results
- Royal Marsden patient information about surgery and HIPEC

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