



Frequently Asked Questions

Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital Oncology Department

What do I need to do after my pet's intravenous chemotherapy appointment?

- Your pet may go home with a bandage wrapped around its leg where the chemotherapy was administered. This should be removed within 15-30 minutes after the appointment.
- Check the injection site daily to make sure there is no signs of irritation or swelling. If the area looks red or swollen, please call your doctor to discuss as some chemotherapy drugs can cause damage to the tissue if they get outside the vein (perivascular). If this is suspected you will be advised on specific treatments to be done at home and what to monitor for.

Should I restrict my pet's activities after chemotherapy?

- No, there are no activity restrictions. Your pet can carry on with normal daily activities. They can eat and exercise normally as well.

How do I clean up after my pet after chemotherapy administration?

- A small amount of chemotherapy is excreted in urine and feces. With most drugs, this is only for the first 24 hours after treatment (although some may be longer).
- Wear gloves when handling urine or feces.
- Soiled bedding can be washed as normal
- If you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or immunocompromised, avoid direct contact with all chemotherapy drugs and avoid your pet's waste for at least 72 hours after treatment. You are otherwise safe to be in contact with your pet as normal.

How do I handle administering chemotherapy at home?

- Keep the medication in the vial and do not store in the kitchen
- Ensure children and pets do not have access to the drug
- Do not eat, drink, or chew gum when handling the medication
- Do NOT crush or break the pills
- Wear unpowdered, latex gloves when handling the medication (unless allergic)
- Gloves and empty vials can be disposed of in the trash or brought back to the hospital for disposal if you prefer.

What do I do if my pet is nauseous or not eating?

- Hold food for several hours and offer ice cubes periodically
- Start anti-nausea medication such as prescribed Cerenia, Metoclopramide, or Ondansetron. If the client would prefer to try an OTC medication, it is safe to advise Pepcid AC or Prilosec. Starting dose is 0.25mg/lb.
- After 4-6 hours try offering small, but frequent meals of a bland diet (boiled chicken, cottage cheese, white rice, turkey, or a commercially prepared diet such as Hill's Prescription I/D).
- If your pet is not vomiting then offer an appetite stimulant such as Entyce, Mirtazapine and Cyproheptadine.



What do I do if my pet is vomiting?

- First, withhold food and water for 4-6 hours.
- If the vomiting is mild (one or two episodes), start anti-vomiting/ anti-nausea medication such as Cerenia, Metoclopramide or Ondansetron.
- If there is no further vomiting after 4-6 hours, begin offering small amounts of water or ice cubes.
- If there is no further vomiting after drinking water over a few hours, offer small amounts of a bland diet.
- If the bland diet is tolerated well then gradually reintroduce your pet's normal diet over 24-48 hours.
- **Severe vomiting, persisting for more than 24 hours, or is accompanied with a fever >103°F, should be seen by a veterinarian right away.**

What do I do if my pet has diarrhea?

- Offer a bland diet (boiled chicken, cottage cheese, white rice, turkey, plain scrambled egg) and fresh water. If the diarrhea improves then gradually switch back to your pet's regular diet slowly over 24-72 hours.
- Persistent or severe diarrhea- prescribe Metronidazole 10mg/kg po BID
- For DOGS- Pepto-Bismol can be given in an emergency, 1 tablespoon or tab/15lbs up to 3 times daily. This will discolor the stool.
- DO NOT use Pepto-Bismol in cats.
- Lomotil (Imodium) is not recommended unless specifically prescribed
- Recurrent diarrhea can be improved with a pro-biotic or earth clay supplement, the client should discuss this with their oncologist.
- **Diarrhea that is severe, bloody, or black/tarry or is accompanied with a fever >103°F, should be seen by a veterinarian right away.**

What if my pet is urinating more frequently or has blood in their urine?

- Prednisone commonly causes pets to urinate more and drink more water. Make sure your pet always has access to plenty of fresh water.
- UTI's can also cause pets to urinate more frequently (small volumes) or have blood in their urine. The urine may have a foul odor. A urine sample will need to be collected if a UTI is suspected.
- In some dogs, chemotherapy can cause cystitis. The most common drug with this side effect is Cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan). If your pet is taking Cytoxan and has cystitis symptoms have the client STOP the drug and contact their oncologist during normal business hours.

For additional questions, please contact our office:

Akron/Copley:

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm

(330) 670-2352 – Oncology Service Direct Line

(330) 666-2976 – 24/7 Metro Emergency Service

Cleveland East:

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

(216) 201-9842 – Oncology Service Direct Line

(440) 673-3483 – 24/7 Metro Emergency Service

What if I have questions after the oncology service has closed for the day?

You are welcome to leave a voicemail, and a member of our oncology team will return your call by the end of the next business day. **If your pet is experiencing an emergency, please contact Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital Emergency Service or take your pet to the nearest emergency veterinary clinic.**