

DO I NEED TO DELAY MY PET'S VACCINATIONS DURING CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT?

Reach out to your veterinary oncologist. It is recommended when feasible, that non-essential vaccinations be delayed during chemotherapy treatment, but depending on your pet's treatment protocol, exceptions can be made.

IS THERE A CURE?

There are several injectable & oral drugs available to treat cancer. While anti-neoplastic drugs may assist to prolong your pet's quality of life & delay the progression of the disease process, a cure is not guaranteed. Upon the completion of any treatment protocol, relapse is always possible.

THERE IS STILL HOPE!

Your pet can still live many happy, healthy months to years depending on their disease process. Sure, there may be peaks and valleys to traverse while managing their disease but having each other along for the ride will make the journey all that easier! Your oncologist and their team of technicians are here to help guide you every step of the way.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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CHEMOTHERAPY
LSU VET MED
CANCER TREATMENT UNIT

IS CHEMOTHERAPY RIGHT FOR MY PET?

Determining the best treatment option for your pet can be difficult. Reliable information can be obtained from your veterinarian & oncologists. This brochure answers basic questions regarding chemotherapy treatment. Chemotherapy may be given intravenously, or orally.

Antineoplastic drugs (chemotherapy) are frequently used to inhibit select cancers in pets. Your doctor may recommend using chemotherapy drugs as a:

- Single agent protocol (one drug)
- Multi agent protocol (multiple drugs)
- Paired with radiation
- Paired with surgical excision



HOW TO MANAGE SIDE EFFECTS

Most of our canine and feline patients do not experience significant side effects from these drugs; however, each patient is an individual and responds as such. Treatments are catered to the individual and adjusted as needed.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

- Low WBC count (neutropenia)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Dehydration
- Bloody urine (hematuria)
- +/- Hair loss (breed dependent)



DOES MY PET'S URINE AND FECES POSE A RISK TO ME AFTER TREATMENT?

Upon completion of your pet's chemotherapy treatment, their waste will contain metabolites that can be hazardous if handled directly. In other words, always wear gloves to handle urine and feces for the next 72 hours post treatment.

Any contaminated bedding from an accident must be washed twice, separately from other laundry. If your pet uses the restroom outside, you are in luck! Once the urine seeps into the ground, the sun will help to deactivate the metabolites.

HOW SHOULD I HANDLE THE CHEMOTHERAPY AGENT?

When administering an oral chemotherapy agent to your pet, always wear gloves. This will prevent you from absorbing any of the medication through your skin. Do not store the medication in the kitchen, near food, or pets and/or children that may be able to reach it. Do not place medication on household surfaces and do not crush/split tablets/capsules.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I COME INTO CONTACT WITH A CHEMOTHERAPY AGENT?

If accidental exposure occurs, wash the area thoroughly using soap and water. If exposed skin becomes irritated and does not resolve quickly, please contact your doctor. Counter tops or other surfaces that touch the drugs should be washed with detergent and wiped with a paper towel. Never spray any cleaners onto the drug to clean up the spill.

IF I AM PREGNANT, BREASTFEEDING, OR IMMUNOSUPPRESSED, SHOULD I TAKE PRECAUTIONS?

For all scenarios listed above, you should avoid contact with all chemotherapy agents. You should avoid contact with your pet's waste for at least 24 hours after their chemotherapy treatment.