



CYTARABINE INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS CYTARABINE?

Cytarabine (cytosine arabinoside) is a chemotherapy agent used mainly in the treatment of cancers of white blood cells such as acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and non-Hodgkin lymphoma in humans. It destroys cancer cells by interfering with DNA synthesis. In dogs it is normally used for the management of lymphoproliferative (white blood cells) disorders and myeloproliferative (bone marrow) disorders. This drug is in veterinary medicine also used in patients with inflammatory disease of the central nervous system.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Cytarabine should not be used in patients with hepatic disease or in patients with bone marrow suppression. Adverse reactions include vomiting, diarrhoea, bone marrow suppression and pancreatitis. Conjunctivitis, oral ulceration, hepatotoxicity and fever can occur.

USE OF CYTARABINE:

We use Cytarabine in patients with inflammatory disease of the central nervous system and sometimes in patients with other immune-mediated inflammatory disease like poly-arthritis. Cytarabine should be given by sub-cutaneous injections or by slow continuous rate infusion.

PRECAUTIONS:

- Part of the drug will be excreted by your pet in the urine, faeces or vomit. Take care that the animal does not urinate or defecate in the area of playing children.

- If vomit, urine, faeces or blood is spilled in your house take immediate precautions. Use disposable gloves to remove the contaminated material with disposable absorptive material and carefully wash your hands afterwards.

- You must be willing to take care of all excreta of your pet during the three days following Cytarabine administration: During the risk period you must keep your dog on the leash all the time when outside, remove all faeces with plastic bags using disposable gloves, and rinse off and dilute all urine with water (take a bottle of water with you every time you walk your dog). You can dispose of the faeces by flushing it in the toilet, or by discarding it like chemical waste. The resting place(s) of your pet should also be scrutinized every day, and sanitized after each risk period, by washing all clothes slept on, and rinsing with soap all surfaces of sleeping places. Last but not least: avoid being licked by your pet, and deter stroking it; in this regard pay special attention to children.

- During the treatment try to prevent direct contact with your pet. Most likely the drug is being excreted by your animal during 3 days after administration.

- Although no information is yet available on the amount of excretion of this potentially hazardous drug by your animal, and therefore the risk it poses, it is advisable that women who are pregnant or lactating are extra careful. Also the presence of little children requires extra precautions to avoid direct contact with the pet.

**Should you have any concerns please contact:
Wear Referrals on 01388 777 770**