

FLUOROURACIL – DRUG SAFETY INFORMATION

Form: Fluorouracil 25 mg/ml solution for Intravenous Injection

General:

- If there is evidence of damage to the packaging in transit please contact us prior to administration.
- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
- Administer on the day of delivery.
- Protect product from light and store at ambient temperature less than 25°C until ready to use.
- **Single use only:** discard any unused contents
- Any unused product or chemotherapy waste materials should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements for handling of cytotoxic waste.

Handling and administration:

Do not eat, drink or smoke in chemotherapy handling or administration areas.

Fluorouracil is a cytotoxic drug and should only be handled by adequately trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Pregnant staff should not be involved in the administration of the medication or be present in the immediate work environment when the drug is being administered. Likewise they should not come into contact with the patient's urine, faeces or vomitus after treatment. Fluorouracil is administered as an intravenous bolus injection. Nursing staff involved in the care of hospitalised patients that have received chemotherapy should wear appropriate PPE for handling.

Incompatibilities:

Administration equipment and intravenous catheters should not be flushed with heparin containing solutions due to the potential for physical incompatibility with fluorouracil.

Prevention of contamination:

- Routes of exposure to chemotherapy agents include ingestion, inhalation, and absorption through the skin and mucous membranes.
- PPE (eye protection, face mask, gloves and protective gowns) should be worn by vet and handler during drug administration and disposal of contaminated waste.
- The work surface under the patient should be covered with a disposable plastic-backed work mat.
- Skin accidentally exposed to fluorouracil should be rinsed copiously with warm water and if the eyes are involved standard irrigation techniques should be used. Medical advice should be sought immediately.

Spill management:

If fluorouracil is spilled on equipment or environmental surfaces, non essential personnel should be instructed not to enter the area. Wearing appropriate PPE, the spillage should be

mopped up with absorbent pads. The area should be cleaned with hot, soapy water and dried with absorbent disposable dry tissues. Absorbent materials and PPE should be disposed of as contaminated cytotoxic waste.

Disposal:

Syringes, administration equipment, absorbent materials and disposables that have potentially come into contact with fluorouracil should be disposed of in appropriate cytotoxic waste containers prior to incineration.

Warnings and contraindications:

- Similar to all chemotherapy agents, treatment with fluorouracil is associated with toxicity in normal tissues including bone marrow suppression (myelosuppression), gastrointestinal toxicity, reproductive failure and alopecia in certain breeds. Neurotoxicity has been reported in dogs at higher doses.
- **USE OF FLUOROURACIL IS FATAL IN CATS AND THIS DRUG SHOULD NEVER BE ADMINISTERED IN THIS SPECIES.**
- Concurrent use of other myelosuppressive drugs should be avoided unless clinically indicated.
- Peripheral blood counts, with particular attention to neutrophil and platelet numbers should be monitored closely during treatment.
- Drug residues may be found in the urine and faeces of treated patients for up to **3 days** after treatment and the owner should be warned about this hazard. It is recommended to double bag faeces for pick up and disposal and to rinse any urine contamination from the skin with clean water. Pregnant women should avoid contact with patient waste.

Further information:

Further information is available on request by contacting us at info@chemopet.co.uk or by telephone: 01928 250052.