



HYDROXYCARBAMIDE – DRUG SAFETY INFORMATION

Form: 500mg oral capsules (and reformulated variations)

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.
- Protect product from light and store at ambient temperature less than 25°C until ready to use.
- The expiry date for the product under the recommended storage conditions will be stated on the label.
- For safety, any unused medications or empty drug storage containers should be discarded in accordance with local requirements for handling of cytotoxic waste.

Handling and administration:

(At risk groups include pregnant or lactating women, women or men trying to conceive, young children, the elderly or patients receiving chemotherapy themselves).

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

Hydroxycarbamide is a cytotoxic drug and should only be handled by adequately trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff members who are pregnant or trying to conceive should not be involved in the administration of the medication or be present in the immediate work environment when the drug is being administered or dispensed. Likewise they should not come into contact with the patient's urine, faeces, saliva or vomitus after treatment. Nursing staff involved in the care of hospitalised patients that have received chemotherapy should wear appropriate PPE for handling.

Hydroxycarbamide is often administered orally at home and those handling the drug are recommended to wear protective gloves and a gown. Capsules should **not** be opened.

A gown and chemo-protection gloves can be provided to an owner for administration of treatment at home or for cleaning up after their pet in the home environment.

Individuals in at risk groups should ideally not be involved in the administration or handling of cytotoxic agents.

Disposal:

Tablet containers and disposables that have potentially come into contact with hydroxycarbamide should be disposed of in appropriate cytotoxic waste containers prior to incineration.

Warnings and contraindications:

- Similar to all chemotherapy agents, treatment with hydroxycarbamide is associated with toxicity in normal tissues including bone marrow suppression (myelosuppression), gastrointestinal toxicity, reproductive failure, pulmonary fibrosis and alopecia. In cats, its use has been associated with stomatitis, dysuria and alopecia. Cats may also be more prone to the myelosuppressive effects of this drug and also methaemoglobinaemia.
- Care should be taken with use in combination with other potentially myelosuppressive therapies including radiation treatment.
- Peripheral blood counts, with particular attention to neutrophil and platelet numbers should be monitored closely during treatment. In addition, as this medication is used in the treatment of polycythaemia vera, red blood cell counts must also be carefully monitored.
- Drug residues may be found in the urine and faeces of treated patients for up to **an unspecified period** after treatment and owners must be warned about this hazard. Individuals in at risk groups should be particularly careful to avoid contact with patient excreta and saliva.
- For canine patients, faeces should be double bagged for clean-up and water should be poured over areas where a pet urinates outdoors to dilute any residues. For cats, the litter box should be cleaned every day taking adequate care when handling and bagging any contaminated litter material.

Further information:

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