

## MELPHALAN – DRUG SAFETY INFORMATION

### Form: Melphalan (Alkeran®) 2mg Oral Tablets

#### 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 2 - 8°C (in the refrigerator) until ready to use.
- The expiry date for the product under the recommended storage conditions will be stated on the label.
- For safety, empty drug containers should be discarded 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.**

Melphalan is a cytotoxic drug and should only be handled by adequately trained personnel. 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 or dispensed. Likewise they should not come into contact with the patient's urine, faeces or vomitus after treatment. Melphalan is administered orally and if the coating of the tablet is intact there is minimal risk of drug exposure to personnel and the environment however those handling the drug should wear protective gloves and a gown is recommended. Tablets should **never** be crushed or split. Nursing staff involved in the care of hospitalised patients that have received chemotherapy should wear appropriate PPE for handling.

#### Disposal:

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

#### Warnings and contraindications:

- Similar to all chemotherapy agents, treatment with melphalan is associated with toxicity in normal tissues including bone marrow suppression (myelosuppression), gastrointestinal toxicity, reproductive failure and alopecia in certain breeds.
- The use of melphalan should be avoided in patients with severe azotaemia.
- Concurrent use of other myelosuppressive 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 **7 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](mailto:info@chemopet.co.uk) or by telephone: 01928 250052.