chemopet

VINBLASTINE – DRUG SAFETY INFORMATION

Form: Vinblastine Sulphate 1mg/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.
- Protect product from light and store at 2 - 8^{o}C until ready to use.
- The expiry date for the product under the recommended storage conditions will be stated on the label.
- **Single use only**: discard any unused contents
- Any unused product or chemotherapy contaminated 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.

Vinblastine 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. 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.

Vinblastine is administered as an intravenous bolus injection.

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 the 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 vinblastine 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 vinblastine 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 rinsed twice with clean 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 vinblastine should be disposed of in appropriate cytotoxic waste containers prior to incineration.

Warnings and contraindications:

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

- Similar to all chemotherapy agents, treatment with vinblastine is associated with toxicity in normal tissues. For this drug, these may include bone marrow suppression (myelosuppression), gastrointestinal toxicity, reproductive failure and alopecia in certain breeds.
- Vinblastine is a vesicant and extravasation injury must be avoided.
- In the event of extravasation, attempt to withdraw any drug from the tissues by aspirating the catheter, remove the catheter and call immediately for advice.
- Vinblastine undergoes hepatic metabolism and biliary excretion therefore reduced doses are recommended in patients with obstructive jaundice or other hepatic impairment.
- Peripheral neuropathies have been reported experimentally in dogs and cats receiving vinblastine.
- Vinca alkaloids are knows substrates of the p-glycoprotein membrane transporter and the toxicity associated with their use is influenced by factors that modulate the activity of this protein. Dose adjustments are required in dogs that carry the MDR gene mutation including Collie breeds. Concurrent use of drugs that inhibit or induce CYP3A4 mediated metabolism should also be considered carefully.

- 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 a minimum of **3 days** 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.