



BC Cancer Agency

For the Patient: GOOVIPPC

Other Names: Primary Treatment of Stage III \leq 1 cm Visible Residual Invasive Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Using Intravenous and Intraperitoneal Paclitaxel and Intraperitoneal Carboplatin

GO = Gynecologic **Oncology** (tumour group), **OV** = **OV**ary
IP = Intra**P**eritoneal, **PC** = **Pa**clitaxel, **C**arboplatin

Intraperitoneal (IP) Chemotherapy for Ovarian Cancer

About IP Chemotherapy

IP chemotherapy involves giving chemotherapy drugs directly into your abdominal cavity.

Why You are Receiving IP Chemotherapy

Ovarian cancer is different from many other cancers in that it tends to stay in the abdominal cavity. We therefore use IP chemotherapy to give chemotherapy directly into the peritoneal area of the abdomen where the cancer cells are. This exposes the cancer to higher drug levels than if given by the intravenous (IV) route.

Standard intravenous chemotherapy is an alternative to the IP route. You may want to further discuss the pros and cons of intravenous and intraperitoneal chemotherapy with your oncologist.

About the IP Port

IP chemotherapy is given through a special device called a “port”. The surgeon will place this port into your abdomen during your operation. The port consists of 2 main parts: a reservoir (chamber) and a fine catheter. The surgeon will tuck the reservoir under the skin near the bottom right of your ribcage. The reservoir is where the nurse injects the chemotherapy. The surgeon will attach one end of the catheter to the reservoir, and will thread other end into your peritoneum. This catheter carries the chemotherapy from the reservoir to your peritoneum.

You might see and feel a round bump (about 1 inch in diameter) over the port on your ribcage. You will not need to do anything special to care for your “port” while you are at home. You can bathe, swim, and go about your usual activities while you have the port in.

Your Treatment Schedule

You will receive 6 cycles of chemotherapy. Each cycle of chemotherapy will be given 3 to 4 weeks apart. The chart below describes one cycle.

Day	Tests and appointments	Chemotherapy
0	Lab tests and see oncologist	No
1	No	Paclitaxel IV (4 hours) in morning Carboplatin IP (3-4 hours) in afternoon
8	Lab tests	Paclitaxel IP (4 hours)

How to Get Ready for your IP Chemotherapy Treatment

- Plan for someone to drive you to and from treatment, because some of the medications might make you feel drowsy.
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing to treatment.
- Eat a light meal the night before and morning of your treatment.
- You might want to bring in food and drink as you will be in the clinic for several hours.
- Bring something to read or music to listen to through headphones.

What Happens on the Day of Your Treatment

- The nurse will put a fine needle into the reservoir and will connect your chemotherapy to that needle. The needle will be held securely in place with a dressing.
- The nurse will also put an IV in your hand or arm to give you your IV chemotherapy and other medications.
- While you are having your IP chemo (3 to 4 hours) you will need to stay in bed.
- When your chemo is finished the nurse will remove the needle and dressing. You will then be asked to change your position 4 times in the next hour to make sure that the chemotherapy covers all the surfaces of your abdominal cavity.
- You will then be able to go home. The fluid will be absorbed into your body over the next few days.

How You Might Feel During Your IP Treatment

You might have a feeling of fullness or bloating as the fluid goes into your abdomen. Tell the nurse **RIGHT AWAY** if your chest feels tight, you are short of breath, feel chilled or are shivering, feel nauseated or have abdominal pain.

What You Might Feel in the First Day or Two after Your IP Treatment

You might feel	How to stay comfortable
Abdominal pressure or bloating	Wear comfortable clothing with an expandable waistband when you come to treatment and for a few days after. Walking or gentle exercise might help.
Frequent urination and bladder fullness	Empty your bladder before treatment and before going home.
Shortness of breath	Sit rather than lie down if possible, to help relieve the pressure on your chest. Pace your activities.
Nausea and /or vomiting	Take antinausea medications as directed. Eat smaller, more frequent meals.
Decreased appetite	Eat smaller, more frequent meals.

For general side effects and medication interactions of paclitaxel and carboplatin, please ask for copies of “*Information for the Patient: paclitaxel*” and “*Information for the Patient: carboplatin*”. They are also located on our website at:

www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/DrugIndexPt/Paclitaxel.htm

www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/DrugIndexPt/Carboplatin.htm

BCCA Pharmacists are also available to answer your drug-related questions.

Call the Patient Helpline immediately if you have:

- Temperature of 38 Celsius or more (call the 24 hour number if outside of regular hours).
- Redness, swelling or pain around the port site.
- Severe nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea lasting 24 hours.
- Constipation lasting more than 48 hours.
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours.
- Abdominal pain that changes or gets more severe.