Animal Clinic Suburban
14203 Pacific St
Omaha, NE 68154
402-334-1660
www.animalclinicsuburban.com

ANIMAL CLINIC SUBURBAN

Although pets receive smaller doses of chemotherapy than people, that doesn't mean that your pet will not have side effects from the treatment. Changes in appetite, diarrhea, lethargy, allergic reactions and other side effects do occur. There are many options to help lessen the side effects of chemotherapy on your pet if needed.

Loss of appetite

This is one of the more common side effects and may occur after a dose of any chemotherapeutic drug. Loss of appetite may last a day or two. Your pet may need to be prescribed an anti-nausea medication. If your pet experiences a loss of appetite, feed him or her frequent, small meals.

It's preferable to keep your pet on normal food, but you may need to introduce some bland food to increase your pet's interest in eating. Some good options included:

- Boiled chicken or hamburger. Mix the meat with some white rice or boiled potatoes.
- Low fat yogurt or cottage cheese.
- Cooked eggs. These can be easily prepared in the microwave, but do not use butter.
- Canned food. Remember to use a bland or sensitive stomach formulation.
- Baby food. Use products that are meat only and with no onion powder.
- Cooked fish or canned fish (in water) can entice dogs and cats

Vomiting

If your pet is vomiting, pick up all food and water. Do not allow access to either for ~6 hours. After six hours, offer a small amount of water or ice. If your pet does not vomit, continue to offer small amounts of water & offer a small amount of bland food. Gradually mix in the normal diet over the next few days.

If your pet continues to vomit after following the above instructions or is acting ill in addition to the vomiting, please call the clinic.

Vomiting can be more common with certain chemotherapy medications so you may be prescribed Cerenia at the time of chemotherapy administration to try to prevent it.

Diarrhea

Diarrhea is not as serious a concern as vomiting as long as your pet maintains adequate hydration and energy levels. Diarrhea sometimes takes several days to a week to resolve. A bland diet can help. Medication can be prescribed if the diarrhea is not resolving. Do NOT use human products like Kaopectate or Pepto-Bismol as these contain aspirin products. Do not use products like Imodium or Lomotil as these tend to stop intestinal motility.

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Increased hunger, thirst and/or urination

Increased hunger, thirst and/or urination are not side effects of chemotherapeutic drugs, but are a side effect of some of the drugs used in conjunction with the chemotherapy treatment.

- **Prednisone** – This is a steroid that is often used during the treatment of cancer and can cause increased urination (volume and frequency), hunger and thirst. Prednisone can cause your pet to form larger volumes of urine, so please do not restrict his/her water intake as this may lead to dehydration. Also, do not let your pet gorge him/herself on water as this may cause vomiting

Lethargy

Mild lethargy – the lack of energy – is a common side effect of chemotherapy. Approximately three to six days after your pet's treatment, they may seem to sleep more or be less interested in play. This should resolve in a few days. However, if your pet seems very lethargic (i.e. will not get up to eat, drink, or relieve him/herself) contact the clinic immediately.

Allergic reaction

Some chemotherapeutic drugs can trigger an anaphylactic (allergic) reaction. To prevent this, pets will be given an antihistamine, an anti-emetic (anti-nausea) and sometimes a steroid prior to administration of chemotherapy to minimize the risk.

Tissue sloughing

Some drugs must be delivered directly into the vein because they can damage other types of tissues. Great precaution is taken when giving these drugs, including placing an IV catheter and sometimes diluting the drug. If you ever notice redness or inflammation near the administration site please contact us immediately at (402) 334-1660.