

Peptic ulcers

Cisplatin is an anti-cancer ("*antineoplastic*") chemotherapy drug. It is classified as an "**alkylating agent**."

Remember: Alkylating agents – these agents alkylate DNA such that it cannot replicate. Popular agents include **Cisplatin** and **Cyclophosphamide**.

Notes about cisplatin **side effects** (*and most chemotherapy drugs*):

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects
- The side effects are often predictable in terms of their onset and duration
- The side effects are almost always reversible and will go away after treatment is complete.
- The side effects and their severity depend on how much of the drug is given. In other words, high doses may produce more severe side effects.

The **most common side effects** of chemotherapy are:

- Anemia
- Fatigue
- Hair loss
- Increased chance of bruising, bleeding, and infection
- Nausea and vomiting
- Low WBCs
- Xerostomia
- **Mucositis**

Other **less common side effects** include:

- Appetite and weight changes
- Nerve and muscle problems
- Dry and/or discolored skin
- Kidney and bladder irritation
- Sexual and fertility issues because of effects on reproductive organs

Note: **Mucositis** is a **common reaction** to cancer chemotherapy. It is an inflammation of the mucous membranes. During chemotherapy and radiation therapy, mucosal tissues begin to desquamate and develop into ulcerations. The mucosal integrity is broken and is secondarily infected by oral flora. Palliative treatment is indicated for mucositis. The antineoplastics such as 5-fluorouracil (*5FU*), methotrexate and doxorubicin are commonly associated with the development of oral mucositis.