

Chemotherapy Drugs that Can Injure Others After Exiting Chemotherapy Patients

Although chemotherapy drugs save lives, some can also cause great damage to the patient's loved ones. These problem drugs exit the patient intact (in urine, feces, vomit, sweat and saliva). If loved ones contact the drugs in bodily waste or water contaminated with the chemicals, they can suffer cancer, birth defects and miscarriages. Luckily, the active drugs exit the body quickly, usually within 1-2 days although a few leave more slowly (up to 8 days). If careful precautions are used during the danger period, everyone can remain safe.

The chemotherapy drugs that exit the patients' bodies in large quantities as active dangerous chemicals can be broken into 3

	Can cause Cancer, Birth Defects and Miscarriages
	Can cause Birth Defects, Miscarriages and may cause Cancer
	Can cause Birth Defects and Miscarriages

This table lists the problem chemotherapy drugs by both generic and trade names. In addition, the table lists the amount of each drug that exits the patient's body as active, dangerous chemicals and the number of days needed for the exit (the Danger Period). The information in this table is summarized from the Drug Package Inserts (links provided). Drug Package Inserts contained the detailed information required by the FDA from pharmaceutical companies before each drug is approved for use in humans.

	Generic Name (Drug Package Inserts)	Other Names	Excretion	
			Percent	Danger Period
Cause Miscarriages, Birth Defects and Cancer	Actinomycin D	Dactinomycin, Cosmenogen	30%	7 Days
	Bleomycin	Blenoxane	60-70%	1 Day
	Carboplatin	Paraplatin	65-75%	1 Day
	Cisplatin	Platin	13-17%	1 Day
	Cyclophosphamide	Endoxan, Cytoxan, Neosar, Procytox, Revimmune	5-25%	1 Day
	Doxorubicin	Adriamycin, Rubex, Doxil, Caelyx, Myocet	45-55%	5 Days
	Epirubicin	Ellence, Pharmorubicin	55%	4 Days
	Etoposide	Eposin, Etopophos, Vepesid, VP-16	45%	5 Days
	Idarubicin	Zavedos, Idamycin	20%	8 Days
	Ifosfamide	Mitoxana, Ifex	12-18%	1 Day
	Mitomycin	Mitosol	10%	1 Day
	Mitoxantrone		24%	5 Days
Cause Miscarriages and Birth Defects; Possible Cancer Risk	Oxaliplatin	Eloxatin	35%	1 Day
	Fluorouracil	5-FU, Adrucil, Carac, Efudix, Efudex, Fluoroplex	7-20%	1 Day
Cause Miscarriages and Birth Defects	Irinotecan	Camptosar, Campto	25-50%	2 Days
	Dacarbazine	DTIC, DTIC-Dome	40%	1 Day
	Fludarabine	Fludara	40-60%	1 Day
	Methotrexate	Trexall, MTX, Amethopterin	80-90%	1 Day
	Paclitaxel	Abraxane, Taxol	18-75%	1 Day
	Vinblastine		5-35%	1 Day
	Vincristine	Oncovin, Leurocristine, Vincasar	10-20%	1 Day