



# Cisplatin: What You Should Know

## What is Cisplatin?

Cisplatin is a chemotherapeutic agent that is used in horses to treat different types of cancer such as squamous cell carcinoma, sarcoids, or melanoma. It may be embedded into the affected area in small beads, or injected in a liquid form. Chemotherapy drugs work by stopping the growth of cancer cells. However, the drugs cannot tell the difference between cancer cells and healthy cells, so it has the potential to kill off healthy cells also. This is why it is crucial to take precautions when handling an animal that has been treated with chemotherapeutic agents.



## What precautions should I take?

Cisplatin is excreted in the urine, so the urine must be handled with caution for 7 days after injection. Chemotherapy safe gloves should be worn when cleaning stalls and handling soiled bedding. If the horse urinates outside of its stall (in the wash stall, arena, trailer, etc.), all people within range should stand back so the urine doesn't splatter onto them or their clothing. Shavings should be thrown onto the urine puddle to absorb it. Then, with gloves on, the shavings should be disposed of. You will likely have to handle the area of your horse where the Cisplatin was injected to clean a surgical site, or monitor for tumor growth. Chemotherapy safe gloves should be worn while doing this. Additionally, immunocompromised individuals should not enter the stall or handle horses that have been treated with Cisplatin.

