

Chemotherapy: understanding the basics

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There are many ways to give chemotherapy; as an IV where medication is put into the body using veins (usually in your arm), or as a catheter, or an IV that stays in a blood vessel in your chest, so a normal IV doesn't have to stay stuck in your arm. More ways that chemo can be given are pills, capsules, or liquids, shots into the muscle and skin, or as an injection into an area below the spinal cord. Places to give chemotherapy are hospitals, cancer centers, doctor's offices, and at home.

Many patients receive chemo in hospitals and clinics, while others may need to stay in a hospital so doctors can look over them. Chemo may be given at different times such as every day, every week, or every month. Between treatments the patient needs time to rest. Undergoing chemo might have uncomfortable side effects caused by the medications, the amount taken, and the general health of the patient. Most side effects don't last long because the healthy cells multiply and side effects eventually go away.

Cancer patients get lots of TLC (tender, love, and care), like lots of food and water, physical therapy, medicines, etc. This type of care helps patients get through treatments and avoid side effects such as nausea and vomiting. This most common effect of chemo is fatigue. Tiredness can last for days, weeks, or months, but it eventually goes away once the treatment is over. Rest can assist the body to recover from chemo. Short-term side effects caused by chemo are stomach problems like not being hungry, constipation, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting.

Some drugs used in chemotherapy might cause problems that bother or harm the bladder or kidneys. Another issue caused by chemo is

brief depression and confusion, which should disappear when treatment is finished. More side effects can be blood disorders like anemia and blood clotting. Any organ like the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, and liver can be affected by chemo for a long period of time. Factors like the type of drug and/or chemo and whether the patient was treated with radiation at the same time he or she was receiving the treatment may cause a higher risk of cancer later on.

It can be hard to deal with cancer and cancer treatment. Even if the side effects are uncomfortable, it's important to make the patient happy and ensure that chemo is administered. Chemotherapy: Understanding the Basics By accepted effect of chemo is fatigue. Tiredness can last for days, weeks, or months, but it eventually goes away once the treatment is over. Rest can assist the body to recover. Short-term side effects caused by chemo are stomach problems like not being hungry, constipation, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting.

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