

# Chemotherapy

## Oncology Service



### Michigan Veterinary Specialists<sup>sm</sup>

www.michvet.com

We Can Help

#### Available Services

- 24/7 Emergency & Critical Care
- Cardiology
- Computed Tomography
- Dermatology & Allergy
- Internal Medicine
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- MRI
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Oncology
- Oncologic Surgery
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Radiology & Fluoroscopy
- Radiation Therapy
- Soft Tissue Surgery
- Ultrasound

#### Locations

##### Auburn Hills

3412 E. Walton Blvd.  
(West of Squirrel Rd.)  
(248) 371-3713

##### Grand Rapids

1425 Michigan St. NE  
(East of Fuller Rd.)  
(616) 284-5300

##### Southfield

29080 Inkster Rd.  
(North of 12 Mile Rd.)  
(248) 354-6660

## Concerns

Chemotherapy is often recommended as part of the treatment plan for pets with cancer. Most people are nervous about the side effects that may occur with chemotherapy; however, the protocols administered at MVS have been developed to be effective while minimizing side effects to your pet. These protocols often utilize doses that are lower than those used in human medicine, allowing dogs and cats to maintain an excellent quality of life throughout treatment.



## Side Effects

Chemotherapy drugs are designed to kill dividing cells. Therefore, if side effects develop, they usually involve the intestinal tract, immune system, or hair follicles which contain many dividing cells.

Intestinal side effects can include decreased appetite, vomiting and diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and self-limiting. In fact, many patients gain weight while receiving chemotherapy because they feel good enough to take advantage of all of the treats they are offered! As a precaution, the oncologists at MVS make anti-vomiting and anti-diarrheal medications readily available to all patients. In cats, the most common side effect is a decreased appetite which can usually be overcome by an appetite stimulant.

Chemotherapy treatments often suppress the immune system. Some pets are more sensitive to certain medications than others and can be more susceptible to infections. The oncologists at MVS monitor each patient closely to determine their sensitivity. Patients that are at risk of infection are treated with antibiotics until their immune system has returned to a safe level, and future treatments are adjusted accordingly.

Most dogs and cats do not lose their hair. Exceptions include curly coated breeds such as Poodles, Bichon Frisés, Old English Sheepdogs, and some terriers. Cats may lose their whiskers, but they should grow back after treatment is completed.

## Cost

The cost of chemotherapy is based on what medication is used and how it is administered. Because of the wide variety of treatments available at MVS, the oncologist will have an extensive discussion with you about your pet and what protocol is most appropriate for their cancer. You will then be provided with the estimated costs involved with treatment. The goals that are always kept in mind are to maintain your pet's quality of life and to give them as much time with you as possible.