

Vincristine may cause paralytic ileus by injuring the autonomic nerves of the body. By affecting the autonomic nerves, the medication inhibits the neuronal transmission between the brain and the intestines. Instruct the patient to report changes in bowel habits. Discontinuing the medication will reverse the effects of paralytic ileus.

Considerations

Vesicant

Vesicle-ant

Since vincristine is poorly absorbed via oral route, the medication is only administered intravenously. As a vesicant, the drug will cause severe skin irritation and extravasation will lead to local tissue necrosis. The preferred route to administer the medication is through a central line by a specially trained nurse. The patient should be closely monitored while receiving IV vincristine and assessed for complications. The antidote for IV infiltration of vincristine is hyaluronidase.