

Amifostine (Ethyol®)

What is Amifostine?

Amifostine is a medication that is used with chemotherapy or radiation to protect certain parts of the body.

How will I receive Amifostine?

Amifostine is given either as an injection into your vein (intravenous) or as an injection under the skin (subcutaneous).

What are the common side effects?

Please see “Managing Symptoms at Home”, in the manual and refer to the Symptom Management section.

What You May Expect?	What Should You Do?
Low blood pressure may occur. This usually occurs within 15 minutes of receiving the dose and usually resolves within 5-10 minutes. A nurse will be monitoring your blood pressure frequently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your nurse immediately if you feel lightheaded or dizzy. • Drink plenty of fluids the day before you receive Amifostine to help prevent low blood pressure.
Nausea and vomiting may occur. This usually resolves within 24 hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be given medications to help you better tolerate these side effects. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred. • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts.
Drowsiness and sleepiness may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a vehicle if you feel drowsy.
Sneezing and hiccups may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These side effects will go away on their own.

These are the most common side effects. Others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

Call Seek Help Immediately If You Have:

- Signs of an allergic reaction such as rash or shortness of breath.
- Signs of low blood pressure such as dizziness, shortness of breath, or fainting.

Contact Your Nurse or Doctor If You Have:

- Uncontrolled nausea or vomiting.

Special Instructions

Inform your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Use birth control when receiving chemotherapy. Talk to your doctor or nurse about any additional questions. Be sure to inform your doctor if you are taking any medication to lower your blood pressure. You may be asked to stop your blood pressure medication the day prior to Amifostine administration.

Drug-Drug Interactions

None known at this time. However, be sure to inform your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are taking medication to lower your blood pressure or any other medication. Check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist before starting any new medications.

Drug-Food Interactions

None known at this time.

For more complete information please request an additional teaching sheet from the National Library of Medicine at www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html , your nurse, pharmacist, or visit the Resource Center.