

## Cyclophosphamide Injectable (Cytosan®)

### What is Cyclophosphamide?

Cyclophosphamide is a type of chemotherapy that is used to treat many different cancers. It can be given alone or in combination with other drugs.

### How will I receive Cyclophosphamide?

Cyclophosphamide is a clear liquid that is injected into your vein (intravenous). You may receive a dose every 2-4 weeks. Your treatment plan will depend on your condition.

**\*If you will be receiving your Cyclophosphamide in the clinic, you will need to give a urine sample to the lab first thing in the morning when you arrive for blood draw.**

### 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?
<b>Decreased Blood Counts</b> (lowered platelet, red and white blood cells) may occur. You may feel weak and tired. You may develop infections more easily and may bruise more easily. Your health care providers will test your blood frequently to monitor your blood counts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report any signs of infection, fever, and unusual bleeding or bruising.</li> </ul>
<b>Hematuria</b> (blood in your urine) may occur during your treatment with <b>Cyclophosphamide</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drink lots of fluids (8-12 cups each day) on the day(s) of your treatment and the day after your treatment.</li> <li>Empty your bladder (pass urine) every 2 hours while you are awake and at bedtime for at least 24 hours after your treatment. Your doctor may also tell you to get up in the night to empty your bladder. This helps prevent bladder and kidney problems.</li> </ul>
<b>Nausea and vomiting</b> may occur while you are taking Cyclophosphamide. Many people have little or no nausea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may be given a prescription for an anti-nausea drug(s) to take at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred.</li> <li>Drink plenty of liquids.</li> <li>Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss is common</b> and may begin within a few days or weeks of treatment. With lower doses, your hair may thin. With higher doses, you may become totally bald. Your scalp may feel tender. You may also lose hair on your face and body. Your hair will grow back once your treatments are over and sometimes between treatments. Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a gentle baby shampoo and soft brush.</li> <li>Avoid hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms.</li> <li>Protect your scalp with a hat, scarf or wig in cold weather. Some extended health plans will pay part of the cost of a wig.</li> <li>Cover your head or apply sunblock on sunny days.</li> <li>Apply mineral oil to your scalp to reduce itching.</li> </ul>

and texture may change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you lose your eyelashes and eyebrows, protect your eyes from dust and grit with a broad-rimmed hat and glasses.</li> <li>• See the “Body Image” section of the Resource manual.</li> </ul>
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**These are the most common side effects. Others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.**

**Call and Seek Help Immediately If You Have:**

- Signs of an infection such as fever, chills, cough, pain or burning when you urinate.
- Signs of bleeding problems such as black tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin.
- Signs of bladder problems such as blood in urine, frequent need to pass urine, pain when you pass urine.

**Contact Your Nurse or Doctor if You Have:**

- Severe skin reaction where you have had radiation.
- Signs of anemia such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of heart problems such as shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Signs of kidney problems such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs, numbness or tingling in feet or hands.
- Signs of lung problems such as shortness of breath or hacking cough.
- Signs of gout such as joint pain.

**Special Instructions**

Cyclophosphamide may cause sterility in men and menopause in women, which may be permanent. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with Cyclophosphamide.

Cyclophosphamide may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. Use birth control while being treated with Cyclophosphamide. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment. Talk to your doctor or nurse about any additional questions.

**Drug-Drug Interactions**

Other drugs such as Chloramphenicol, Digoxin (Lanoxin®), Phenobarbital, Phenytoin (Dilantin®), or Warfarin (Coumadin®) may interact with Cyclophosphamide. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs

**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](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html), your nurse, pharmacist, or visit the Resource Center.