

DRUG INFORMATION: CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE (sye kloe foss' fa mide): CYTOXAN

About your treatment

Your doctor has ordered the drug cyclophosphamide to help treat your illness. The drug can be taken by mouth in tablet form or be given by injection into a vein.

This medication is used to treat:

- lymphomas
- multiple myeloma
- leukemias
- mycosis fungoides
- neuroblastoma
- ovarian carcinoma
- retinoblastoma
- breast cancer

This medication is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

Cyclophosphamide is in a class of drugs known as alkylating agents; it slows or stops the growth of cancer cells in your body. The length of treatment depends on the types of drugs you are taking, how well your body responds to them, and the type of cancer you have.

Other uses for this medicine

Cyclophosphamide is also used to treat bronchogenic carcinoma, small cell lung carcinoma, and other types of cancer. Talk to your doctor about the possible risks of using this drug for your condition.

Precautions

- Before taking cyclophosphamide,
- tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to cyclophosphamide or any other drugs.
- tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking, especially aspirin and vitamins.
- tell your doctor if you have or have ever had kidney disease.
- you should know that cyclophosphamide may interfere with the normal menstrual cycle (period) in women and may stop sperm production in men. However, you should not assume that you cannot get pregnant or that you cannot get someone else pregnant. Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding should tell their doctors before they begin taking this drug. You should not plan to have children while receiving chemotherapy or for a while after treatments. (Talk to your doctor for further details.) Use a reliable method of birth control to prevent pregnancy. Cyclophosphamide may harm the fetus.
- while being treated with cyclophosphamide, drink plenty of fluids because this drug can irritate your kidneys and bladder. This precaution is especially important if you have had chemotherapy before.
- do not have any vaccinations (e.g., measles or flu shots) without talking to your doctor.

- you should know that cyclophosphamide has been associated with the development of other types of cancers. Talk with your doctor about the potential risk of developing a new cancer.

Side effects from cyclophosphamide are common and include:

- thinned or brittle hair
- darkened and thickened skin
- blistering skin or acne
- loss of appetite or weight
- Tell your doctor if either of these symptoms is severe or lasts for several hours:
- mouth blistering
- fatigue

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

painful urination or red urine

black, tarry stools

cough

fever

chills

sore throat

nausea and vomiting

unusual bruising or bleeding

congestion

dizziness

shortness of breath

swelling of the feet or ankles

rash

Special instructions

Drink plenty of fluids. Drink about 10 eight-ounce glasses of fluid and urinate frequently during the first 24 hours after treatment to keep your kidneys working.

The most common side effect of cyclophosphamide is a decrease in the number of blood cells.

Your doctor may order tests before, during, and after your treatment to see if your blood cells are affected by the drug.

Excerpted from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/medmaster/a682080.html>