

Medication Information Sheet

cyclophosphamide Injection/Tablets (sigh-kloe-FOSS-fa-mide)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other name: Procytox®

Appearance: Injection- clear solution mixed into larger bags of fluids; Oral- tablets in various strengths

What it is used for

- For treating many types of cancers including breast, lung, lymphomas and leukemias

Before receiving it

- Tell your doctor if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had chicken pox (or have recently been exposed to someone who has had chickenpox), shingles, Addison's disease (adrenal insufficiency), kidney disease or liver disease, or any allergies.
- This drug (tablets) contains a small amount of lactose. If you cannot tolerate lactose, talk to your doctor.
- Cyclophosphamide may harm the unborn baby.
- Let your doctor know if you are breastfeeding, pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- People who have cancer are at a higher risk of developing other cancers or blood clots. Also, some cancer medications, such as cyclophosphamide, may increase these risks. You should discuss these with your doctor.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- Do not use this drug if you are pregnant. If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must: ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while taking this drug. Do not take birth control pills if you have breast cancer. Keep using birth control until **6 months** after the last dose (general recommendation). Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this drug.
- Effects on Fertility: Yes

How it is given

Injection:

- This drug is given by injection into a vein.

Tablets:

- Take it exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the instructions.
- Swallow whole with a glass of water, with meals; do not crush tablets.
- Take the dose at about the same time each day.

While receiving it

- Do not have any grapefruit, pomegranate, starfruit, Seville oranges or their juices/products while on this treatment, since this may make the drug not work as well.
- This drug can interact with other drugs, and can result in the drugs not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your doctor and pharmacist know about all your medicines (prescription or over-the-counter ones, herbals and supplements). Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting or stopping any of them.
- Do not consume alcohol while taking this medication.
- Discuss with your doctor before having any vaccinations.
- To prevent bladder or kidney problems, drink plenty of fluids. (Your doctor may ask you to drink at least 8 cups per day on treatment days and for 1-2 days after.) Discuss with your doctor. Empty your bladder often.

Safety / Storage

Tablets:

- Store in the original packaging at room temperature, away from heat, light or moisture. Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not throw out any unused drugs at home. Bring them to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

Side effects and what to do

The following side effects have been seen in people using cyclophosphamide with other chemotherapy drugs, so some of these effects may also be related to chemotherapy.

The following side effects are common or severe. You may not have all of the side effects. Other side effects may occur. If you have any unusual or bothersome symptoms, discuss with your doctor.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Most Common Side Effects	
<p><i>Nausea and vomiting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May occur in hours to days after the dose is given/ after treatment starts. • Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Limit spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. • Take anti-nausea drug(s) exactly as directed by your doctor. It is easier to 	<p>Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe</p>

<p>prevent nausea than to treat it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your doctor if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting for more than 24 hours. • Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet.* 	
<p>Hair thinning or loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a gentle soft brush; care should be taken with hair sprays, bleaches, dyes and perms. • Your hair usually grows back after your treatment ends, but the texture or colour may change. 	
<p>Poor Appetite; don't feel like eating; weight loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat foods that you like and try to eat regular small meals. • Use meal supplements if possible. See a dietitian. 	<p>Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Unusual bleeding or bruising (may be due to low platelets) (black stools, coughing up blood, blood in urine, purple or red dots on skin, bleeding that will not stop)</p> <p>Fever, chills, infection (low white blood cells)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May occur in days to weeks after the dose is given/ after starting treatment. • Phone your doctor right away or go to the nearest emergency department, if your oral temperature is over 38°C or 100.4°F (unless stated otherwise by your healthcare team). Tell the health care team that you are on chemotherapy. • Check your temperature, especially if you are feeling unwell with sweats, fever or chills. • Wash your hands often. Avoid sick people and crowds. • Use a soft toothbrush. Be careful not to cut or bruise yourself. • Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries or dental work. • Also see Low Platelets and Low White Blood Cells pamphlets.* 	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
<p>Abnormal liver lab tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor will monitor these regularly. Call your doctor if you have yellowish skin or eyes, or unusual dark urine. 	<p>Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Blood clot (limb pain or swelling, hardened vein in limb), may occur in lungs (sudden start of coughing, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)</p> <p>Blockage of an artery (blood vessel) in your heart, brain, chest, belly, or limbs; this may result in stroke (sudden loss of vision, speech, or the use of your limb(s)) or heart attack (chest pain, shortness of breath), or pain in chest, belly or limb</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>
<p>Kidney problems (lower back pain, body swelling, passing little or no urine, or recent unusual weight gain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also look for passing little or no urine, darkening or blood in urine, pain on urination or recent unusual weight gain • Severe kidney/bladder infection (with blood in the urine) • Drink plenty of fluids (at least 8 cups daily on treatment days) and empty your 	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>
Prepared with input from the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.
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bladder often	
Pancreas problems (increased pain in centre of belly and may extend to back, appetite or weight loss)	Get emergency medical help right away
Lung problems (sudden increased cough, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)	Get emergency medical help right away
Heart problems (irregular heartbeat, chest pain, fainting, swelling, shortness of breath)	Get emergency medical help right away
Rash; dry, itchy skin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay out of the sun; wear sunblock, a hat and cover exposed skin. • Use daily moisturizer. • May be severe, including blisters and skin peeling; get emergency medical help right away if this occurs. 	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.