

Medication Information Sheet

cyclophosphamide Injection/Tablets

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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 is this medication for?

- For treating breast cancer, lung cancer, lymphomas, multiple myeloma, leukemias and other types of cancer.

What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist 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.
- People with cancer have a higher risk of getting other cancers or developing blood clots. Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a long period of time. Discuss any concerns about this medication with your health care team.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

- The use of this medication in men or women may cause harm to the unborn baby if pregnancy occurs. Let your health care team know if you or your partner is pregnant, becomes pregnant during treatment, or if you are breastfeeding
- 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

*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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How is this medication 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.

What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- Do not have eat or drink any grapefruit, starfruit, Seville oranges or their juices (or products that contain these) while on this treatment. They may make the drug not work as well.
- This medication can interact with other medications and can result in the treatment not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your health care team knows about all your medications (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- 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.
- Drinking alcohol and smoking during your treatment may increase some side effects and make your medication less effective. Speak to your health care team about smoking and drinking alcohol while on treatment.

How should I safely store this medication?

- 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.

What are the side effects of this medication?

The following side effects have been seen in people using cyclophosphamide with other chemotherapy

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drugs, so some of these effects may also be related to chemotherapy.

Common side effects usually occur in more than 1 out of every 10 patients. Other side effects are less common, but may be severe. You may not have all of the side effects below. You may have side effects that are not listed.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More 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 prevent nausea than to treat it. • Contact your doctor if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting for more than 24 hours. • Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet.* 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p><i>Hair thinning or loss</i></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><i>Poor Appetite; don't feel like eating; weight loss</i></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 your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p><i>Unusual bleeding or bruising</i></p> <p>You may have black stools, cough up blood, blood in your urine, purple or red dots on your skin or bleeding that will not stop.</p> <p><i>Fever, chills, infection</i></p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR • 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. <p>While you are getting chemotherapy treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills). • Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your 	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

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Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
<p>temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature. • Wash your hands often. • Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries or visiting your dentist. <p>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room. See our Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count) pamphlet for more information.</p>	

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
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. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<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>	Get emergency medical help right away
<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 bladder often 	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Pancreas problems (increased pain in centre of belly and may extend to back, appetite or weight loss)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Lung problems</p>	Get emergency

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Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
(sudden increased cough, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)	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 your health care team if no improvement or if severe

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms.

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.