

# Irinotecan (Camptosar<sup>®</sup>, CPT-11)

Irinotecan is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat colon and rectal cancers.

## How Is It Given?

- pale yellow liquid by IV (intravenous)

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### Common:

- lowered white blood cell and red blood cell counts (occurs 1 to 2 weeks after treatment)
- nausea (feel like throwing up) and vomiting (throwing up)
- loss of appetite
- hair loss
- diarrhea — may be early (within 24 hours) or late (3 to 11 days after treatment)
- stomach cramps during infusion

### Less common:

- mouth sores
- headache
- back pain
- chills, fever
- weight loss

- trouble sleeping
- lowered platelet count
- facial flushing during infusion
- dizziness

## Special Notes

- Diarrhea is a common side effect of this medicine. Your doctor or nurse will give you more information on what to do if you get it. Call your doctor or nurse if you develop diarrhea that is severe and does not stop.
- Some medicines interact with Irinotecan. Tell your doctor if you are taking laxatives or diuretics.
- You may have changes in your menstrual cycle or sperm count. Discuss birth control measures with your doctor. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine.

## When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- severe or prolonged diarrhea
- fever, chills or sore throat
- uncontrolled nausea or vomiting.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.

[allinahealth.org](http://allinahealth.org)