

Cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan[®], Neosar[®])

Cyclophosphamide is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat many types of cancer.

How Is It Given?

- tablet by mouth
- clear 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:

- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up) (can begin 2 to 4 hours after treatment)
- lowered white blood cell, red blood cell and platelet counts (occurs 7 to 14 days after starting treatment)
- hair loss (begins 2 to 3 weeks after treatment)
- loss of appetite
- metallic taste/odor
- nasal congestion during treatment

Less common:

- water or fluid retention
- irregular menstrual periods
- irritation or bleeding from the bladder

- mouth sores
- darkening of skin and fingernails
- cough, shortness of breath
- dizziness or confusion
- heart damage (with high doses)

Special Notes

- Cytoxan goes through your kidneys and may irritate your bladder. It is important to drink plenty of fluids (about 3 liters) after receiving the medicine and to urinate every 2 to 3 hours until bedtime.
- Stop taking the medicine and call your doctor right away if you see blood in your urine or if urinating is painful.
- When taking this medicine by mouth, take it with food in the first half of the day.
- Some medicines may interact with cyclophosphamide. Please tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:
 - allopurinol (Zyloprim[®])
 - blood thinners such as warfarin (Jantoven[®])
 - digoxin (Lanoxin[®])
 - phenobarbital
 - succinylcholine.

(over)

- 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

You should call your doctor if you have:

- trouble breathing
- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- blood in urine or stool
- swollen feet or ankles
- problems urinating.

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