

Etoposide (VP-16[®], VePesid[®])

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

How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous)
- capsule by mouth

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 platelet counts (10 to 14 days after receiving the medicine)
- hair loss
- loss of appetite

Less common:

- mild nausea (upset stomach) or vomiting (throwing up)
- mouth sores
- facial flushing
- low blood pressure
- allergic reaction while the drug is infusing (dizziness, wheezing, low blood pressure, shortness of breath, swollen face)
- skin rash or itching with higher doses

Special Notes

- Tell your nurse right away if you feel dizzy, lightheaded or faint while receiving the medicine.
- If you are taking the capsules, take them exactly as prescribed.
- Keep the capsules in the refrigerator.
- 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:

- unexplained fever, chills, or sore throat
- trouble breathing
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- bloody urine, bowel movement, or vomit.

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