

Topotecan (Hycamtin[®])

Topotecan is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat ovarian cancer and other types of cancer.

How Is It Given?

- 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:

- lowered red blood cell, white blood cell and platelet counts (10 to 14 days after treatment)
- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- hair thinning
- loss of appetite, weight loss
- diarrhea
- constipation
- abdominal pain
- headache
- fatigue (tiredness)

Less common:

- muscle or joint pain
- hair loss
- dry mouth
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- diarrhea — may occur shortly after receiving the drug and can last 2 to 3 days
- skin rash, itching
- dizziness

Special Notes

- Topotecan is usually given 5 days in a row every 4 weeks.
- 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:

- fever, chills or sore throat
- uncontrolled nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- yellowing of your skin or eyes.

For more complete drug information or for questions about this medicine, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.