Cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan®)
(“sye kloe FOS fa mide”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: to kill cancer cells in lymphoma, adult acute leukemia, breast cancer, endometrial cancer, lung cancer, multiple myeloma, sarcoma, ovarian cancer, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite are common and usually begin 3 to 12 hours after the drug is given. These symptoms may last 8 to 12 hours when the drug is taken in high doses. Your doctor may prescribe other drugs to help with this.

2. Nasal congestion, sneezing, headache, and a change in taste or feeling in the throat can occur during IV infusion. These symptoms will end when the infusion is done.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
   • Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
   • White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
   • Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

   This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. If you have a fever of 100.5°F (39°C) or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

2. Cyclophosphamide can irritate the bladder or cause blood in the urine. You should be sure to drink at least 2 to 3 quarts (about 12 glasses) of fluids such as water, juice, or milk every day that you take cyclophosphamide, and for at least 2 days afterwards. Empty your bladder often during the day and night. If you have problems drinking, have any pain, or see blood in your urine, call your doctor or nurse right away.

3. Skin may darken slightly and ridges may form on fingernails and toenails.
4. Some or all of your hair may fall out around 3 to 4 weeks after treatment starts. You may lose hair on your head, as well as facial and body hair. You may want to buy a wig before hair loss begins. Hair may grow back during treatment.

5. In rare cases, blurred vision may occur. If this happens, call your doctor or nurse right away.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

1. Fertility:
   - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to an unborn baby.
   - Men can become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
   - For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.
   - Women should not breast-feed while receiving this drug.
   - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

2. In rare cases, you may be at risk of getting another type of cancer after taking cyclophosphamide.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.