



Chemotherapy: Amifostine (Ethyol®)

Pronounced: "am-i-FOS-teen"

How drug is given: Injected into the vein (IV) or under the skin (subcutaneous)

Purpose: To decrease some of the side effects of chemotherapy

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
- Burning, itching, redness, or swelling at the injection site may occur. These reactions are usually mild and go away. Applying a cold pack to the area may help.
- Skin changes, such as rash on your body, may occur. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use.
- You may feel lightheaded or dizzy and you may have redness of the face or neck. This could be due to a change in your blood pressure. This usually returns to normal quickly and does not require treatment. Your blood pressure will be checked often if receiving it IV.

Sexual health and reproductive concerns

If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

- It is not safe to take this medicine during pregnancy. It could harm an unborn baby.
- Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.

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 cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team.

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