



## Cyclophosphamide (Cytosan®)

("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. You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. Nausea and vomiting may begin soon after the drug is given and may last more than 24 hours. You may be given medicine to help with this.
2. **Nasal congestion**, scalp burning, facial swelling, **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:
  - 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, **call your cancer care team right away**.

2. Cyclophosphamide can irritate the bladder or cause blood in the urine. You will be given a large amount of fluid in your vein before you get cyclophosphamide to try to help prevent this problem. It is **important** that you drink 2 to 3 quarts (about 12 glasses) of fluid a day for 2 to 3 days after treatment. 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 cancer care team right away**.
3. Skin changes may happen. Your skin may turn darker.

4. Nail changes can occur such as dark lines or changes in color. Nails may become more brittle. Nails usually return to normal after treatment is finished. Please tell your cancer care team if you notice these changes.
5. 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.
6. In rare cases, you may have blurred vision or notice other changes in your vision. Talk to your cancer care team about what might help.

### **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 harm 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 breastfeed while receiving this drug.
  - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.
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 listed 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 are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team if you have any 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, talk with a member of your cancer care team right away.*

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: