



Chemotherapy: Etoposide (VePesid®)

Pronounced: "e-TOE-poe-side"

How drug is given: By vein

Purpose: To stop the growth of cancer cells in ovarian cancer, small cell lung cancer, Hodgkin disease, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Your blood pressure may drop, or your heart rate may slow down while you are getting this drug. This usually goes back to normal on its own. It is important to ask for assistance and take your time when you stand up during or after your treatment. You might feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your cancer care team **right away**.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

- Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
- Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. 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
- If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C)** or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **call your cancer care team right away**.
- 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.
- Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may help you maintain your energy.
- You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush for brushing your teeth. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use a **baking soda mouth rinse** 4 or 5 times a day.

Mouth Rinse Recipe:

Mix: 1 tsp salt or baking soda with 8 oz. glass of water

alcohol in them, because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, let your doctor or nurse know. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.

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

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

Sexual health and fertility concerns

Women

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for at least one month after your last dose if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- 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.

Men

- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
- Men can become sterile and may want to consider sperm banking prior to treatment.

The information in this document includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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 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.