

CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE TABLET

Other names: Procytox®, Cycloblastin®, Endoxan®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medication

Cyclophosphamide (sigh-kloe-FOSS-fa-mide) is a medicine that is used to treat many types of cancer. It is a tablet that you take by mouth.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or allergic reaction to cyclophosphamide before taking cyclophosphamide. Also tell your doctor if you have a history of seizures.

Take cyclophosphamide exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Take your dose early in the day. If you are taking one dose daily, take it at breakfast. Cyclophosphamide is best taken with food and with a full glass of water. Tablets must be swallowed whole. Do not chew, break or crush the tablets.

If you vomit within one hour of taking cyclophosphamide or miss a dose, check with your doctor. You will be told whether to take the dose again or to wait until your next scheduled dose.

Your doctor may tell you to drink plenty of liquids (8-12 cups or 2,000-3,000 mL a day). Depending on your dose you may be told to empty your bladder (pass urine) frequently, every two hours while you are awake, and at bedtime for at least 24 hours after your dose. Your doctor may also tell you to get up in the night to empty your bladder. This helps prevent bladder and kidney problems.

Store cyclophosphamide tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture.

A blood test may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results or other side effects.

Tell other doctors or dentists that you are being treated with cyclophosphamide before you receive any treatment from them.

Other medication

Other drugs may interact with cyclophosphamide. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new medicines.

Alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of cyclophosphamide.

Pregnancy and breast feeding

Cyclophosphamide may cause sterility in men and menopause in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with cyclophosphamide.

It is best to use birth control while being treated with cyclophosphamide. Cyclophosphamide may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.

Do not breast feed during treatment with cyclophosphamide.

Side effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Changes in your blood

This medicine may cause temporary changes in your blood. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

EFFECT ON YOUR BLOOD	WHAT TO DO
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection.</p> <p>When they are low you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the toilet. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • See your doctor <i>immediately</i> at the first sign of an infection such as fever (a body temperature of 38°C or more using an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury.</p> <p>When the platelet count is low you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene. <p>Some medicines such as aspirin or ibuprofen may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by a doctor. • For minor pain, try paracetamol first.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	WHAT TO DO
<p>Nausea, vomiting may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for an anti-nausea medicine to take at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow the directions closely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat often in small amounts.
<p>Headache may occur.</p>	<p>Paracetamol may be used to treat the headache.</p>
<p>Diarrhoea may occur.</p>	<p>To help diarrhoea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods.
<p>Sore mouth may occur a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat.</p> <p>Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste. • Make a mouthwash with ½ teaspoon baking soda or salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day. • Try soft, bland foods like puddings, milkshakes and cream soups. • Avoid spicy, crunchy or acidic food and very hot or cold foods.
<p>Hair loss is common and may begin within a few days of treatment. Your hair may thin or you may become totally bald. Your scalp may feel tender. You may lose hair on your face and body. If you lose hair it will grow back once you stop treatment with cyclophosphamide. Colour and texture may change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Care should be taken with the use of hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms. • Protect your scalp with a hat, scarf or wig in cold weather. • Cover your head or apply sunblock on sunny days. • Apply mineral oil (liquid paraffin) to your scalp to reduce itching. • If you lose your eyelashes and eyebrows, protect your eyes from dust and grit with a broad-rimmed hat and glasses.
<p>Loss of appetite and weight loss are common and may persist long after discontinuation of cyclophosphamide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat often in small amounts.

Stop taking your cyclophosphamide and see your doctor or get emergency help immediately if you have:

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** soon after a treatment including flushing, fever, rash, itching, dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling or breathing problems.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (a body temperature of 38°C or more using an oral thermometer); shaking chills; cough; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum), cloudy or foul smelling urine, painful, tender or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin, extensive bruising.

See your doctor as soon as possible (during office hours) if you have:

- Signs of **anaemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **lung problems** such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Skin **rash** or **itching**.

Check with your doctor if any of the following continue or bother you:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Headache not controlled with paracetamol.
- For diabetics: uncontrolled blood sugars.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist