

Warning

This fact sheet aims to let you know the side effects most commonly seen following the administration of your treatment. Please note that when you take any medication, there is a possibility that it causes rare side effects and it is difficult to predict which patients will be affected.

General information for patient EP (ECOG) - PO

Date: April 2016

Revision date:

Medication	Administration
Etoposide	Intravenous infusion over 60 minutes on day 1 AND Caspules to be taken by mouth, once or twice a day as prescribed, on days 2 and 3 . To be taken at same time every day on an empty stomach, 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.
Cisplatin	Intravenous infusion over a few hours on day 1
<i>Treatment repeated every 3 weeks</i>	

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General Information associated with your treatment

- › These medications are used to prevent the multiplication of abnormal cells and destroy them.
- › A **blood test** will be prior to every cycle. Depending on the results and side effects of the previous treatment, the dose of the medication might be adjusted or the treatment might be delayed.
- › You may experience **fatigue** during your treatments. This is usually only temporary and may be related to different reasons (medication, stress, the disease). Maintain a good level of activity but rest when you feel the need to.
- › Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- › Your **sense of taste may be altered**. Enhance foods with *fines herbes* or lemon juice. Eating fruits and non sugared candies, chewing non-sugared gums, etc., may mask the metallic taste.
- › **Alcohol** (in small quantities) is permitted and will not affect the efficacy of the treatments.
- › You can have an **active sexual** life during your treatments. Your partner will not be exposed to, nor harmed by chemotherapy effects. However, a decrease in your sexual drive may occur during this period. This may also be influenced by different factors (fatigue, stress etc.)
- › For **male patients**, the sperm count may be affected and negative effects on the embryo may occur. In fact, the production of spermatozooids may be reduced or completely absent during treatments. In certain patients, this reduction of fertility may be permanent, may get better or return to normal after the treatments have stopped. This reduction of **fertility** does not prevent erection or sexual activity. A pregnancy remains possible. If you have sex with a woman of childbearing age it is strongly recommended to use a method of contraception during the treatment.
- › In **pre-menopausal female patients**, chemotherapy may cause irregularities or cessation of the **menstrual cycle** during treatment. The menstrual cycle may restart or return to normal after the end of treatment. The menstrual cycle may also stop permanently. However, a pregnancy remains possible and chemotherapy administered during pregnancy may harm the embryo. A birth control method is strongly recommended during treatment. Breast-feeding is contra-indicated during treatment.
- › Consult your doctor or pharmacist before you take other medications (even over the counter medications available without a prescription) or **natural health products** or if need to receive a **vaccine**. These may provoke an interaction with your treatment and diminish its efficacy or increase side effects.
- › Follow the instructions given by your cancer center about the right way to handle and dispose of biological fluids (for example urine, stools) in order to protect the environment and your relatives.
- › Be sure to always have on hand the complete list of your medications, dietary supplements, vitamins and other natural health products. Give it to your doctor and your pharmacist. It is important to make them aware of any change.

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Adverse effects and their management

Adverse effects	Management
Severe nausea and vomiting may occur and persist up to 5 days following your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› You will be prescribed medication to prevent nausea to be taken prior to treatment. At home, you will take medication on a regular basis and others as needed for at least 3 days following your treatment.› Communicate with a member of your healthcare team if the nausea or vomiting is not relieved by your medication.
Depending on the individual, a partial or total hair loss may occur. In general, this happens 2 to 3 weeks after the start of the treatment. However, don't worry; your hair will grow back after treatments have ended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Use gentle shampoo.› Avoid brushing hair vigorously.› Avoid hair spray, dyes and perms.
A decrease in the white blood cells will occur about 1 to 2 weeks following treatment. You may be at higher risk of infections during this period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Wash your hands often.› During this period, avoid coming into contact with people who have contagious diseases.› Contact a member of your healthcare team quickly if you notice any signs of infection (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, pain while urinating...).› Consult your doctor or go immediately to the Emergency Room if you have a fever 38,3 °C (101°F) once or 38 °C (100,4 °F) twice an hour apart.› In case of fever, do not take acetaminophen (Ex: Tylenol®, Atasol®) and anti-inflammatory medication (Ex : Motrin®, Advil®).
A decrease in platelets may occur about 1 to 2 weeks following treatment. You may bruise or bleed more easily than you normally do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Use a tooth brush with soft bristles.› Check with your pharmacist before taking medications with Aspirin®, Ibuprofen or other anti-inflammatory drugs.› Contact a member of your healthcare team if you bruise more easily than you normally do or if you have a tendency to bleed easily from the nose or the gums.

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Cisplatin may affect your kidneys .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Drink plenty of water or fluid (10-12 glasses of 230ml or 8oz.) daily for the 48 to 72 hours following your treatment unless otherwise instructed by your doctor and urinate frequently.› Notify a member of your healthcare team if you urinate less than normally.
Cisplatin may cause ringing in your ears and rarely hearing loss .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If you experience these symptoms, notify a member of your healthcare team at your next visit.
You may experience numbness or tingling of the hands and feet . This phenomenon usually increases with the number of treatments received.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If you experience these symptoms, notify a member of your healthcare team at your next visit.

Special Considerations

- › Take your etoposide capsules, as prescribed once or twice a day, at same time every day. Take your capsules with a large glass of water on an empty stomach, 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.
- › Capsules must be swallowed whole. Do not open the capsules.
- › If you forget a dose, you may take it as soon as you remember but do not double your next dose. Try, however, to take your medication regularly at the same time every day.
- › Wash your hands immediately after handling your capsules.
- › Keep your capsules out of reach of children, at room temperature and protected from light, heat or moisture.
- › You must avoid consuming grapefruit juice or grapefruit, Seville orange, starfruit, pomelo and pomegranate or foods containing the aforementioned fruits because of an interaction that could increase the side effects of etoposide.
- › Don't throw away unused medication at home. Bring them back to your pharmacy to be destroyed safely.

Pharmacist: _____ Phone: _____

from _____ h to _____ h (Monday to Friday)