



## Cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan®)

At the Clinical Center referred to as *Cytoxan*® (sy-TOX-en).

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**How Given:** Orally (by mouth) or intravenously (by vein).

**Drug Action:** Cytoxan® prevents cancer cells from growing by binding together or breaking apart the building blocks that form DNA. DNA is the genetic material in cells used to make new cells.

**Side Effects:**

1. Bone marrow effects can include a temporary decrease in white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells. These effects usually occur within 2 weeks after treatment.
2. Nausea and vomiting can occur several hours after treatment and last up to 1 day.
3. Bladder irritation can occur. Symptoms can include bloody urine or pain, burning, and difficulty when urinating.
4. Temporary hair thinning or hair loss can occur.

**Special Instructions:**

1. Drink 8 to 10 glasses of fluid a day beginning 1 day before and continuing for 3 days after receiving Cytoxan®.
2. Empty your bladder often, at least every 2 hours while awake and every 4 hours during the night for 2 days after receiving Cytoxan®.
3. Take anti-nausea medications on schedule as directed even if you are not having nausea.
4. Take oral Cytoxan® early in the day to prevent accumulation in your bladder during the night.

5. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing products unless prescribed by your NIH doctor.
6. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
  - are unable to take your oral Cytosan®
  - have blood in your urine or pain, burning, or difficulty when urinating
  - are unable to drink for more than 1 day or unable to eat for more than 2 days
  - have a temperature of 101.0 °F (38.3 °C) at any time, or have a temperature of at least 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) that lasts 1 hour or occurs two times within a 24-hour period
  - have any unusual bleeding or bruising



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series  
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National Institutes of Health, CC Nursing Department

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