



## CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE

**OTHER NAMES:** Procytox<sup>®</sup>, Cytosan<sup>®</sup>

**PURPOSE:** Cyclophosphamide is a drug used in the treatment of cancer. It interferes with the growth and spread of tumor cells.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Cyclophosphamide may be taken by mouth in the form of tablets. Take on an empty stomach if possible. Take with food if nausea occurs. Take tablets in the morning. Drink plenty of fluids (8-10 glasses per day). Cyclophosphamide may also be given by injection into a vein.

**SIDE EFFECTS:** Not all patients will experience all side effects.

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
Bladder irritation can result from excretion of cyclophosphamide in the urine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids (8-10 glasses per day) to dilute urine and flush bladder. Void frequently, every 2 hours during the day and once during the night.</li> <li>• Report painful or frequent urination, or blood in the urine to your doctor as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
Nausea and vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be given medications to prevent or control nausea and vomiting.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat often in small quantities.</li> <li>• For tablets, dividing the dose may help.</li> <li>• If vomiting lasts more than 24 hours, contact your doctor or nurse.</li> </ul>
Lowered white blood cell counts. You may be more susceptible to infection, cold and flu and experience symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, chills and shakes, pain and burning when you pass urine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash hands often and avoid people with infections if possible.</li> <li>• <b>Contact your doctor or nurse immediately if your temperature is 38°C (100°F) or above or if you have any other signs of infection.</b></li> <li>• Do not take acetaminophen (Tylenol<sup>®</sup> or others) for fever or other signs of infection unless approved by your doctor or nurse.</li> </ul>
Lowered platelet counts which may cause unusual bleeding or bruising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush teeth gently with a soft toothbrush</li> <li>• Blow nose gently</li> <li>• Prevent constipation</li> <li>• Avoid cuts, burns and falls</li> <li>• Report persistent bleeding to your doctor</li> <li>• Do not take ASA (Aspirin<sup>®</sup> or others) or any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (ie., naproxen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, etc.) if you have low platelets. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if starting new medications.</li> </ul>

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
Hair loss or thinning. May occur within a few days or weeks of treatment. You may also lose hair on your face and body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hair will grow back after treatments are completed. The colour and texture may be different.</li> <li>• Protect head from sun or cold with a hat, scarf, or wig.</li> <li>• Apply sunscreen before exposure to the sun.</li> </ul>
Mouth sores including the lining of the mouth, throat, and gums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report sore mouth to your doctor or nurse.</li> <li>• Use a soft toothbrush, floss, and brush gently.</li> <li>• Rinse with club soda or other prescribed mouthwash. Do not use commercial mouthwashes.</li> </ul>
Decreased appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat small frequent meals.</li> <li>• Choose foods you like.</li> <li>• Contact a dietitian for specific questions.</li> </ul>
Sterility (temporary or permanent), menstrual irregularities, premature menopause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss these with your doctor if you have concerns</li> </ul>
Other symptoms you may experience include darkening of skin and fingernails or metallic taste during injection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report these to your doctor.</li> </ul>

**OTHER IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS:**

- Contact your doctor as soon as possible if you develop pain or burning when you pass urine, or if there is blood in your urine.
- Other medications may interact with cyclophosphamide. Do not start taking new medications or herbal products without checking with your doctor or pharmacist. Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist if you are taking any other prescription or non-prescription medicine, vitamin, or herbal product.
- Inform other doctors, dentists, or pharmacists that you are taking or receiving cyclophosphamide.
- Inform your doctor, nurse, and pharmacist if you develop any new allergies or sensitivities.
- Discuss fertility and birth control with your doctor if necessary.
- It is very important to have blood counts and other lab tests as ordered. Your dose may be adjusted accordingly.
- If you experience any symptoms or problems not listed above, inform your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- Precautions should be taken when handling cytotoxic drugs. If you handle tablets or capsules with unprotected hands, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

**STORAGE:**

- Store cyclophosphamide tablets at room temperature away from heat, direct light, and moisture.
- Whenever possible, return unused medication to the Pharmacy from which it was dispensed for proper disposal.

**If you have any questions regarding this or any other drug therapy, please phone your cancer centre.**

Cross Cancer Institute – (780) 432-8771, Tom Baker Cancer Centre – (403) 521-3764  
 Central Alberta Cancer Centre – (403) 343-4802, Grande Prairie Cancer Centre – (780) 538-7288  
 Lethbridge Cancer Centre – (403) 329-0633, Medicine Hat Cancer Centre – (403) 529-8817

OR