Cyclophosphamide in the Treatment of Cancers and Other Diseases

**Cyclophosphamide** (Cytoxan®) is a medication used in the treatment of some cancers, lupus, kidney disease and other diseases. It attacks the DNA of dividing and non-dividing cells. Although cells do have the ability to repair their DNA, fast growing cells, like cancer cells, don't have time to complete their repairs before cell division, and therefore they die.

Cyclophosphamide can be given by mouth (in tablet or liquid form) or injected into the vein (IV).

Your child will take cyclophosphamide ______________ (how much) by _______________ (route) ________________ every ____________________ (how often).

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (follow the instructions marked):**

[  ] Cyclophosphamide may cause bladder irritation. Have your child drink plenty of liquids before, during and after the medication is given. (Give extra fluids as instructed until ____________________).

[  ] Encourage your child to urinate frequently. Check the amount of urine and its color every time he urinates. A medication called mesna may be given to prevent bladder irritation.

[  ] Chewing gum or sucking on hard candy while the medicine is being given may help to decrease the metallic taste.

[  ] When cyclophosphamide is given IV, extra IV fluids are usually given.

[  ] Your child will need blood drawn to monitor for side effects.

[  ] If your child has vomiting after cyclophosphamide and is unable to keep an adequate amount of oral fluids down, he may require IV fluids and medications.

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

The following side effects are common, depending on the dose your child receives:

- Low white blood cell count – increasing your child’s risk of infection
- Low platelet count – increasing your child’s risk for bleeding
- Low red blood cell count – increasing your child’s risk for anemia
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Hair loss
- Metallic taste in mouth
The following side effects are less common, but can occur:

- Blood in urine
- Mouth sores
- Darkening of the skin and nails
- Heart and lung damage with high doses
- Sterility related to cumulative dose and age
- Second cancers

Call your child’s doctor or nurse if your child has:

- Severe nausea or vomiting
- Blood in urine
- Painful and frequent urination
- Fever of 101.5° F (38.6° C) or greater

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Call your child’s Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse at (816) 234-3265.

Monday through Friday after 5 p.m., and on weekends or holidays:
Call (816) 234-3000 and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call."

Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if:

- Too much medication is taken.
- Medication is accidentally taken.