VP-16 (etoposide, Vepesid®) is a medication used in the treatment of some cancers. This medication works by interrupting cell division.

VP-16 is given by IV infusion or by mouth.

Your child’s doctor will give you a copy of the treatment protocol and this will include information on the medication dose and when it will be given.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (unless otherwise instructed):

Your child’s blood pressure will be checked frequently during the IV infusion of this medication.

SIDE EFFECTS:

The following side effects are common:

- 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 and vomiting
- Low blood pressure (during the infusion)
- Mouth sores

The following side effects are less common, but can occur:

- Allergic reaction (during the infusion): rash, hives, itching and/or difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Chills

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

- Fever of 101.5° F (38.6° C) or greater
- Bruising or bleeding
- Severe nausea and vomiting
- Frequent cough
- Any of the less common side effects above
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.