Cyclophosphamide (Oral)

Here is important information on how to use, handle, and store your medicine, what side effects to look for and how to manage them.

What it looks like: 25 mg round, white tablet or capsule, with blue spots; 50 mg round, blue or white tablet or capsule, with blue spots.

How to handle and store:

- **There are special safe handling instructions for this medicine.** Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse about the precautions you need to follow when you take this medicine at home.
- **Caregivers who are or may become pregnant should NOT touch this medicine.**
- Store in a closed container in a dry place such as a cabinet away from light, heat and moisture.
- **Do not** store in your bathroom or refrigerator.
- Keep this medicine away from children and **do not** share it with anyone.

How to take:

- Swallow the tablet or capsule whole with a full glass of water at the same time each day. You may take this medicine with or without food.
- **Do not** take more tablets or capsules than ordered by your doctor or nurse practitioner.
- **Do not** crush, break or chew the tablets or capsules.
- If you miss a dose, wait until it is time for your next dose, and skip the missed dose. **Do not double up on doses.**
- Use a calendar or diary to keep track of what days and what times you take this medicine.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

© September 11, 2025. The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

Disposal:

- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how to get rid of prescription medicines safely.

Precautions:

- Tell your doctor if you have had a recent surgery, trauma or infection.
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist about any medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products.
- **Do not get pregnant while on this medicine.** Talk with your doctor about what birth control to use.
- **It is important to follow these safety precautions while you take this medicine:**
  - Wash your hands well after each time you use the toilet or if you touch soiled linens.
  - Make sure all body fluids are cleaned up after each time you use the toilet.
  - Sit down to urinate.
  - Close the lid before you flush. Flush the toilet **at least 2 times** after each use. Do this for at least 48 hours after your last dose of medicine.

Possible Side Effects

You can find more information on side effects in the Patient Education booklet, *Treatment with Chemotherapy and Anti-Cancer Medicines*.

Low White Blood Cells/Preventing Infection

What to do:

- Call your doctor if your temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher.
- Wash your hands often.
- Wear a mask or stay away from anyone who is sick or who does not feel well.
- Ask your doctor if you should get a flu or pneumococcal vaccine.

Bleeding/Bruising/Black Stools

What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have bruising, bleeding, and black stools or if you have unusual bleeding, such as bright red blood in your stools or nose bleeds that do not stop.
- Call your doctor if you have sudden or severe stomach pain.
- **Do not** use aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve) for regular aches and pains.

Diarrhea

What to do:

- Drink extra fluids during the day.
- Call your doctor if this happens more than 4 times in a day, or lasts for more than 1 to 2 days or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.

Nausea and Vomiting

What to do:

- Eat small meals or snacks often during the day.
- Stay away from spicy or high-fat foods.
- Drink water during the day.
- Call your doctor if you are unable to keep liquids down for more than 24 hours or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Take your anti-nausea medicine as ordered by your doctor or nurse practitioner.

Other side effects:

Call your doctor or nurse practitioner if you have any of the follow problems after you take this medicine:

- Allergic reaction, such as itching or hives
- Problems breathing or tightness in your chest
- Swelling or tingling in your mouth or legs
- Throat rash
- Weakness

Tell all your health care team if you take:

- Allopurinol (Zyloprim)
- Phenobarbital
- Tamoxifen

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Tell your doctor if you have these or any other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine. Your James health care team can give you other tips for how to manage your side effects.