

# Cyclophosphamide

(syeh-kloeh-FOSS-fah-mide)

## Information for parents

### Other names for this medication

- Cytoxan<sup>®</sup>
- Procytox<sup>®</sup>

### How this medication works

Cyclophosphamide is a medication that acts on the immune system to decrease inflammation. This can help children with many conditions, including kidney disease.

### How to give this medication

- Give this medication exactly as ordered by your health care provider.
- If it is ordered once a day, give it in the morning.
- Give this medication at the same time(s) each day.
- Your child can take cyclophosphamide with or without food.
- If you miss a dose of this medication, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give your child 2 doses at one time.
- Do not stop giving this medication without first checking with your health care provider.

### What to remember while your child is taking this medication

Keep this medication in a safe place, where children cannot reach it.

It is important for your child to drink extra fluids so that he or she will pass more urine. Your health care provider will tell you how much fluid your child should drink each day.

Cyclophosphamide may make it harder for your child's body to fight infections.

- To prevent infections, your family should wash their hands often. Your child should avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Your child should not get a vaccination (immunization) without your doctor's approval.

Cyclophosphamide may lower some types of blood cells that could cause your child to bleed more easily.

- Take extra care to avoid injuries. Your child should be careful when using a toothbrush, dental floss or nail clippers. Your child should not play contact sports or do activities where he or she could easily get bruised or hurt.

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving your child other medications, including vitamins or herbal products.

Although it is rarely needed, a second treatment with cyclophosphamide may affect your child's fertility. There is a small chance that your child may be unable to conceive a pregnancy.

## **While your child is taking this medication, you may notice**

Your child may have:

- Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting or stomach pain
- Diarrhea
- Darkening of the skin and fingernails
- Flushing or redness on the face
- Increased sweating
- Loss or thinning of hair (hair usually grows back when the medication is stopped)

## **When to get medical help**

**Take your child to the doctor right away or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you notice any of the following problems:**

- Signs of infection such as fever, chills and sore throat
- Sores on the lips, tongue, mouth or throat
- Unusual bruising or bleeding
- Passing urine often, pain or difficulty when passing urine, or blood in the urine
- Blood in bowel movements, or black, tarry bowel movements
- Yellow skin or eyes
- Pain in the lower back or side
- Signs of allergic reaction such as trouble breathing, shortness of breath, severe dizziness and confusion