

Cyclophosphamide

(syeh-kloeh-FOSS-fah-mide)

Information for teens

Other names for this medication

- Cytoxan[®]
- Procytox[®]

How this medication works

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

How to take this medication

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

What to remember while taking this medication

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

It is important to drink extra fluids so that you will pass more urine. Your health care provider will tell you how much fluid to drink each day.

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

- To prevent infections, wash your hands often. Try to avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Do not get a vaccination (immunization) without your doctor's approval.

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

- Take extra care to avoid injuries. Be careful when using a toothbrush, dental floss, razor or nail clippers. Do not play contact sports or do activities where you could easily get bruised or hurt.

If you think you may be pregnant, talk to your doctor before taking this medication. It is not safe to take cyclophosphamide during pregnancy.

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

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

While taking this medication you may notice

- Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting or stomach pain
- Diarrhea
- Darkening of the skin and fingernails
- Flushing or redness on your face
- Increased sweating
- Heavy or irregular periods
- Loss or thinning of hair (hair usually grows back when you stop the medication)

When to get medical help

See your 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 your lower back or side
- Signs of allergic reaction such as trouble breathing, shortness of breath, severe dizziness and confusion