

# Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) basics

**Treats various cancers and kidney disorders.** As with all chemotherapy, Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) has many side effects but is also very effective against different cancers.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide)</b> Drug effectiveness					
<b>Possible side effects†</b>					
<b>Hair loss</b>					
<b>Nausea and vomiting</b>					
<b>Urinary problems</b>					
<b>Low blood cell count</b>					
<b>Sores or white patches in mouth</b>					
<b>Changes in hair and nails</b>					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- This medication comes in an injection or pill. You and your doctor will decide what form is most appropriate for you.
- Drink plenty of fluids to prevent urinary problems.
- You should protect yourself and your sexual partners from getting pregnant while taking Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) for at least 4 months if you're a male or a year if you're female.
- You're more likely to get sick or heal slower while taking Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide). Talk to your doctor before getting any vaccines.
- Talk to your doctor if you start having breathing problems that don't go away.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Blood cell problems

Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) can affect different blood cells which weakens your immune system. You might feel more tired, be at risk of infections and bleed or bruise more easily. Your doctor will do regular blood tests, or give you antibiotics to protect you from infections.

### Kidney disease

Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) can cause kidney or bladder problems or make you at risk of getting kidney infections. To stop this from happening, you should drink plenty of liquids and urinate often. If you have pink or red urine or pain on urination, tell your doctor right away.

### Liver disease

Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) can cause liver damage. You're more likely to have this if you're taking certain other chemotherapy drugs or getting radiation throughout your entire body. If you have sudden weight gain, swelling of your stomach, fluid build up in your abdomen, yellowing skin or eyes, dark urine or pale stools, talk to your doctor right away.