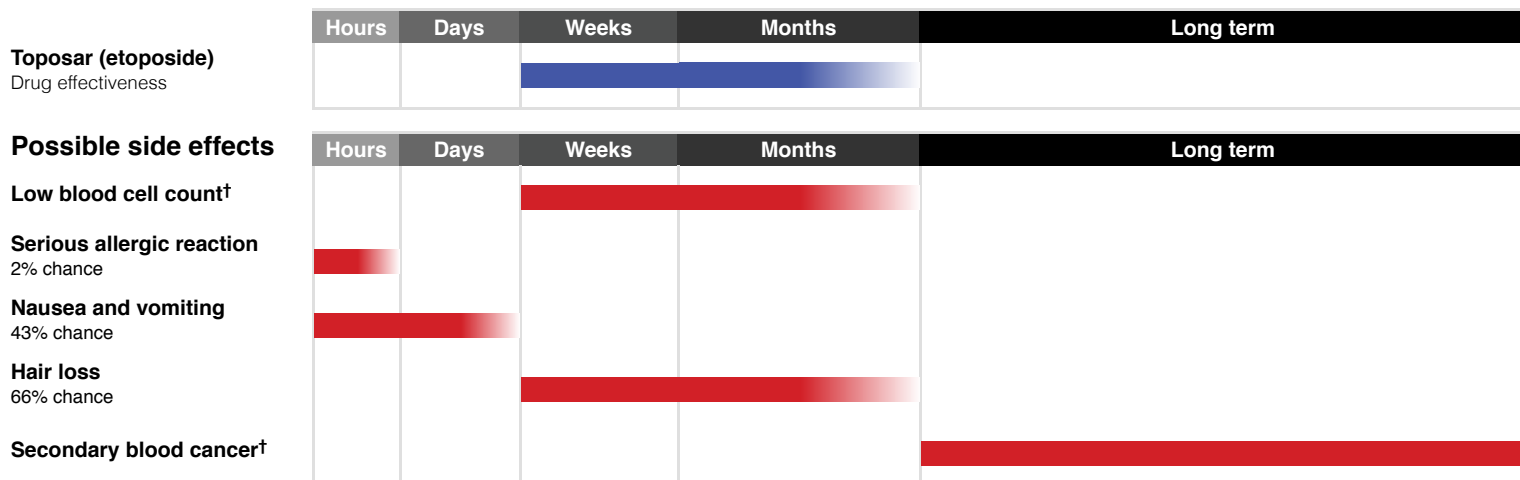


Toposar (etoposide) basics

Treats cancer. Despite having serious side effects, Toposar (etoposide) has been on the market for over 30 years and doctors are very familiar with its effectiveness and safety.

What to expect when starting

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



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Toposar (etoposide) is given as a pill or by injection that lasts about 30-60 minutes. These are given on a schedule decided by your doctor.
- When Toposar (etoposide) is given by injection, you might experience a serious allergic reaction. If you feel dizziness/lightheadedness, fast heartbeat, swelling in your face/hands, trouble breathing, itching, or hives, seek emergency medical care right away.
- Can cause lower blood cell counts leading to bleeding, bruising, or infections.
- To reduce nausea, take anti-nausea medications as directed by your doctor and eat small, frequent meals.
- There is a small risk of Toposar (etoposide) leading to other types of cancer (such as cancer of the blood or bone marrow) that occurs years after treatment.
- Sometimes Toposar (etoposide) can leak out of the vein it's injected. Let your doctor or the person who's giving you the injection know right away if you notice pain, swelling or redness in the area where it's being injected.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Low blood cell counts

Toposar (etoposide) can cause low platelet and white blood cell counts which can be very dangerous. Your cancer doctor will do regular blood tests to make sure you're healthy enough to take Toposar (etoposide). Tell your doctor right away if you have a fever, sore throat, or mouth/throat swelling or unusual bleeding.

Severe allergic reaction

Toposar (etoposide) can rarely cause serious allergic reactions. If you're taking this in the hospital as an injection, your doctor and nurses will check you regularly. If you have rash, itching, hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling in the the throat/face, let them know right away.

Birth defects

Toposar (etoposide) can cause birth defects. Birth control and condoms must be used during treatment and for 6 months after the last dose. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.