

## What do I need to know about Cyclophosphamide?

(say “syeh-kloh-fahs-fah-mide”)

Other names for this medicine include: Cytoxan®

Medicine is one of the tools your doctor has to treat your lupus. Taking medicine as your doctor suggests will improve your lupus. And it may prevent more serious health problems in the future. If you don't take your medicines correctly, you may be putting your health, and perhaps your life, at risk.

### Why am I taking this medicine?

Your lupus is extremely active right now. It's important to bring your lupus under control. Your other medicines haven't been able to control your lupus. Or you may not be able to stand high doses of steroids. Once your lupus is back under control, we can use another medicine to keep it under control.

### How do I take this medicine?

- We will give you this medicine intravenously (IV) (through your vein) in our office.
- The first time we give you this medicine will be \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM.
- After that, we will give you this medicine \_\_\_\_\_.

### How fast does it work?

You may start feeling better after several weeks. It often takes several months for this medicine to have its full effect. Your doctor may need to adjust the dose of this medicine over the course of the treatment.

### Are there any side effects?

Side effects are unplanned symptoms (signs) or feelings you have when taking a medicine. Keep track of side effects. **Tell your doctor right away about any unexpected signs or changes in the way you feel.**

**URGENT**

**Call your doctor immediately, day or night, if you have:**

- **Fever**
- **Chills**

**IMPORTANT**

**Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:**

- Feeling sick to your stomach
- Vomiting
- Feeling like you don't want to eat or drink anything
- Diarrhea (watery poop)
- Mouth sores
- Hair thinning
- Pain or blood when you urinate (pee)
- Painful, blistering rash

This medicine may...

- Make it easier for you to get infections. Wash your hands often and avoid people you know are sick.
- Irritate your bladder (the place where pee is). Drink at least 8 glasses of water each day to prevent bladder irritation. Your doctor may give you medicine for this, too.
- Make it harder for you to have children, if you need the medicine for a long time. Talk to your doctor about what can be done.
- Increase the chances you may get cancer in your blood and bladder. This depends on how much medicine you need. Your doctor will watch this by doing regular tests.

### **What are some things I need to know or do while I take this medicine?**

- Tell your doctor about all medicines you use. This includes prescriptions, medicines you buy off the shelf at the store, vitamins, and herbal products. Do not start a new medicine without telling your doctor.
- It is important to know that many medicines do not mix well with alcohol.
- Talk to your doctor before getting any shots. Some shots can be harmful for you while you are taking this medicine. And some shots may not work while you are taking this medicine.
- Do not use this medicine if you are pregnant or thinking of getting pregnant. It could harm the unborn baby. Talk with your doctors before getting pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.



Keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Never share your medicines with others. Use this medicine only for the reason your doctor said to.

**What's the doctor's phone number? (585) 486-0901**

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