

## PATIENT EDUCATION

If you have any questions, please consult your physician or call Hearst Cancer Resource Center at 805.542.6234. For emergency, call 911.

**Etoposide (VePesid, VP-16)** 

## SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- Lowered Blood Counts This is temporary and may occur 2-3 weeks after taking this drug. You will be more susceptible to colds, infections and bleeding. Tests may be done to monitor your blood counts.
- Low Blood Pressure May occur while you are receiving this drug. Your BP may be taken before, during, and after infusion of this drug. You may be asked to remain sitting or lying down when receiving this drug.
- Nausea/Vomiting Is usually mild; you will be given medication to prevent or control this.
- Hair Loss You may have thinning of your hair. This is temporary and hair will usually regrow after your treatment is completed.
- Constipation

## PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen, white patches in your mouth or on your tongue.
- Signs of Bleeding: Nosebleeds that will not stop with pressure; blood in urine or stool; bleeding gums; unusual bruising; red or purple spots on your body; or a cut that takes longer than usual to heal.
- Dizziness; feeling faint; nervousness or feeling light-headed during the infusion of drug – YOU MUST TELL YOUR NURSE IMMEDIATELY.
- Persistent nausea or vomiting and are unable to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Develop severe constipation
- Develop numbness or tingling in fingers or toes
- Wheezing, fever, chills

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.