French Hospital Medical Center.
A Dignity Health Member

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

PATIENT EDUCATION

Topotecan (Hycamtin)

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 drug will cause a temporary decrease in your blood counts 1-2 weeks after receiving this drug. This will cause you to be more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding. Frequent blood tests will be done to check your blood counts.
- **Fatigue/Low Hemoglobin –** During your treatment, your body uses excess energy and this will leave you feeling more tired than usual. You will be given instructions to help keep your energy up.
- **Hair Loss –** You may experience some hair loss while taking this drug. This will be temporary and your hair will regrow when you stop taking the drug. Do not get a perm or color your hair prior to or while taking this drug.
- **Nausea/Vomiting –** Mild to moderate nausea may occur; however, vomiting is uncommon. Medication will be given to help control this.
- **Diarrhea/Constipation –** You may experience diarrhea or constipation while taking this drug. You will be given instructions on what to do for these problems.
- **Headache**

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, or white patches in you mouth or 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 loner then usual to stop bleeding**.**
- Persistent diarrhea
- Uncontrolled nausea/vomiting or unable to eat or drink for 24 hours
- Excessive fatigue, sudden weakness, or dizziness.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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