

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Ifosfamide Injection



What is Ifosfamide?

- Ifosfamide is commonly used in combination with other medicines to treat bladder, lung, head and neck, testicular cancer and also certain types of lymphoma and leukemia.

How is Ifosfamide Administered / Taken?

- Ifosfamide is usually given by injection into a vein (intravenous infusion).

Can Ifosfamide be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including supplements, traditional or herbal remedies.

What are the Important Side Effects of Ifosfamide?

Inform the nurses immediately during infusion of Ifosfamide if you experience the following:

- Allergic reaction

Ifosfamide may rarely cause an allergic reaction while it's being given. Signs of a reaction may include: rashes, flushed or shortness of breath, swelling of your face or lips, feeling dizzy, having pain in your stomach, back or chest, or feeling unwell.

- Pain along the vein

Ifosfamide may cause pain along the vein. If you feel pain, tell your nurse straight away so that they can check the site. They may give the drug more slowly or flush it through with more fluids to reduce pain.

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Risk of infection can occur as Ifosfamide can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wash your hands after using the toilet. -Avoid crowds and people who are sick. -Do not share food and avoid taking raw food. • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of an infection such as fever with a temperature above 38°C, chills, and burning sensation when passing urine. • Do not take Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever unless instructed by your doctor/ nurse.
Bruising or bleeding can occur as Ifosfamide can reduce the number of platelets in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself. -Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. -Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. -Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop. • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of bleeding such as blood in urine or stools, or easy bruising.

Side Effect	Management
Hair loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a wig or hat or use a gentle shampoo.
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small frequent meals or sucking hard, sugar-free candy may help. • Please remember to take the medicines for nausea or vomiting as instructed by your doctor.
Bladder inflammation resulting in discomfort or stinging sensation when passing urine or blood in urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres (8 to 12 cups) of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. • Inform your doctor if you experience blood in your urine.
Seizures, confusion, mood changes, hallucination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor immediately if you experience these symptoms.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Ifosfamide and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 6 months after cessation of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Ifosfamide may have an anti-fertility effect, which could be irreversible. You should discuss with your doctor regarding fertility preservation prior to starting treatment.
- You should not breast-feed during treatment.

What Else can I do to Help My Condition?

- Exercise

Light exercise is recommended as it helps to improve mobility, balance and even emotional well-being. Do avoid strenuous exercise and rest when you are feeling tired.

- Stay positive

Understand your condition and take an active role in managing it. Do not be afraid to talk about it with your doctor/ pharmacist/ family members. Repressed feelings can be harmful to your immediate well-being and long-term health.

- Adequate hydration

Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres (8 to 12 cups) of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. This will decrease your chances of being constipated and also prevent dehydration.

- Medical and dental treatment

If you need to go into hospital for any reason other than cancer, always inform the doctors and nurses that you are having chemotherapy. Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are having chemotherapy.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

You can also find useful information with regards to your medication on this website:

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support>

