

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Irinotecan (Camptosar): a drug to treat your cancer.

How will you get this drug? A Cancer Center nurse will give this drug to you through an IV or your port.

What should I avoid while receiving *Irinotecan (Camptosar)*?

- Do NOT use Echinacea.
- Do not take St. John's Wort with this drug.

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu. • Wash your hands often. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid taking aspirin or aspirin products unless your doctor tells you to take it. • Use soft toothbrush. • Use electric razor. • Talk to your doctor before any scheduled medical or dental procedures. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Severe headache. ○ Blood in stools or urine. ○ Bleeding for a long period. ○ Uncontrolled bleeding ○ Bruising
Lower than normal red blood cells Anemia	Call you doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shortness of breath with activity ○ fatigue ○ dizziness ○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ headache
Fatigue or weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be more tired than usual or have less energy. • Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed. • Try to do some activity every day. • Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic. • Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Diarrhea – Early onset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can occur within 24 hours of taking this medicine and may start while medicine is being given. • Let your nurse know if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a runny nose ○ increased salivation ○ watery eyes ○ sweating ○ flushing ○ belly cramping. • Medicine may be given to stop or lessen this early side effect.
Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep well hydrated with water or fluids. • Take over the counter anti-diarrhea medicine (Immodium A-D™ or loperamide HCL). Use the “<i>Helpful Tips for Diarrhea after Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy</i>” instruction sheet. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than 4 loose stools in 24 hours ○ A fever of 100.4° or higher ○ bad stomach pain or cramps ○ dizziness or feel faint ○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)
Hair loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your nurse about a wig or other options. • Ask about options to help decrease hair loss. • Hair will grow back 1-3 months after stopping chemotherapy.
Nausea/vomiting Decreased appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you. • Eat smaller, frequent meals. • Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure). • A dietitian is available to talk with you.
Constipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink water and other fluids frequently during the day. • Eat foods high in fiber. • Do mild exercise such as walking. • Talk to your pharmacist about over the counter medicines. • Report if over the counter medicines are not working.
Stomatitis Sores in your throat or mouth (stomatitis) may occur a few days or a few weeks after medicine is given.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let your nurse or doctor know if you have sores in your mouth. • Avoid spicy, hot or cold foods. • Avoid using tobacco products, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol. • Mix 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda and 1/8 teaspoon of salt with 2 cups of water. Rinse your mouth and gargle the mixture at least four times daily, especially after you eat. Do not swallow this mixture, just rinse and spit. • Use a soft toothbrush. • Your doctor may prescribe a special mouthwash for you to use.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Liver problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab tests will be checked. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dark urine (tea colored) ○ severe right sided stomach pain ○ light colored stools ○ bruising or if you start to bleed easily ○ yellowing of skin or eyes ○ severe nausea or throwing up ○ unexplained weight gain ○ your belly feels big or bloated
Fever/shivering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink caffeine free fluids to stay well hydrated. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
<i>Irinotecan (Camptosar)</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier. • Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away. • Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens. • Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water. • You may use the same toilet that you normally use. • If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet • Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet. • It is safe to hug and kiss.
Avoid pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away. • Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 6 months after stopping this drug. • If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 6 months after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away. • May cause fertility problems.

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Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
Stinging or burning if drug gets out of vein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your nurse right away if you have redness, burning, pain, swelling, or leaking of fluid where the drug is going into your body. • The drug can cause severe damage to the tissue at the IV site.
Serious allergic reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the nurse right away for unusual feelings, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ hot or flushed face and neck ○ fever ○ chills ○ pain in the abdomen or back ○ trouble breathing or wheezing ○ chest tightness ○ swelling of your face, lips, or tongue ○ a rash ○ itching ○ hives ○ cough ○ runny or stuffy nose • Call 911 and go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms after you return home.
Breathing problems Sometimes severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell an anesthesiologist that you have a history taking this drug before any surgery (now and future). • Your doctor may schedule a special breathing test (pulmonary function test) before starting this medicine. • Call your doctor right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ severe shortness of breath or trouble breathing ○ labored and unusually rapid breathing ○ new or dry cough or a cough that gets worse ○ confusion ○ extreme tiredness ○ wheezing ○ chest pain • Call 911 if you cannot catch your breath or stop coughing.
Changes in kidney function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help maintain good kidney function stay well hydrated with water and non-caffeine liquids. • Notify your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ changes in mood or confusion ○ smaller amount of urine than normal ○ blood in urine ○ swelling in ankles ○ trouble emptying your bladder ○ weight gain ○ painful urination

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Less common side effects	
Blood clots	What to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drink 6-8 glasses of water and non-caffeine beverages a day.• Staying active by walking or doing mild exercise can decrease your risk for blood clots.• Avoid air travel or long car rides for several days after your infusion.• Call the doctor if you have:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ pain, swelling, redness or warmth in an arm or leg○ unexplained shortness of breath○ coughing up blood○ decreased vision in one eye○ difficulty speaking○ chest pain or discomfort○ unexplained rapid heart rate○ numbness or weakness on one side of the body.
Contains sorbitol	Do not use if fructose intolerant.
These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.	