

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Topotecan (Hycamtin): 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.

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">• Report signs of bleeding or bruising.• 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

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<p><i>Topotecan (Hycamtin)</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</p>	<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.
<p>Avoid pregnancy</p>	<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"> • 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.
<p>These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.</p>	