



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Estramustine

Trade names: Emcyt®

Drug type: Estramustine is a combination anti-cancer chemotherapy drug and it also has hormonal therapy features.

How this drug is given:

- Estramustine is given in pill form (a capsule), taken by mouth.
- Estramustine should be taken with water 1 hour before meals or 2 hours after meals to prevent stomach upset.

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of estramustine:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving estramustine:

- Breast tenderness
- Breast enlargement (mild)
- Decrease in libido and impotence
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function; which return to normal once treatment is discontinued

These are less common side effects for patients receiving estramustine:

- Edema (swelling of face, feet or hands)
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Diarrhea

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider **immediately**, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Swelling, redness and/or pain in one leg or arm and not the other
- Swelling of the feet or ankles. Sudden weight gain

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.