



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Ethyol®

Generic name: Amifostine

Drug type: Ethyol is a drug used to reduce the undesired side effects of certain chemotherapy agents and radiation treatment. It is referred to as a chemoprotectant.

How this drug is given:

- Amifostine is given into a vein (intravenous, IV) infusion starting about 15-30 minutes before chemotherapy or radiation therapy is scheduled to begin.
- Before amifostine is given, patients must drink plenty of fluids. Amifostine is given with the patient lying down, face up, and frequent blood pressures will be obtained.

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of amifostine:

- 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.

All side effects are infusion-related (occur while the medicine is being given).

The following side effects are common for patients receiving amifostine:

- Low blood pressure (hypotension)
- Nausea/Vomiting (may be severe)

These are less common side effects for patients receiving amifostine:

- Flushing or redness of the face or neck
- Dizziness
- Sleepiness
- Sneezing
- Hiccups
- Feeling hot or cold, chills

If you experience any of the infusion-related side effects listed above, make sure you tell your health care provider ***right away***.

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