



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Topotecan

Trade names: Hycamtin[®]

Drug type: Topotecan is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

How this drug is given:

- Topotecan is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of topotecan:

- 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 topotecan:

- Low blood counts. Your white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease. This can put you at increased risk for infection, anemia and/or bleeding.
- Nausea and vomiting
- Hair loss
- Diarrhea

These are less common side effects of patients receiving topotecan:

- Constipation
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Abdominal pain
- Bone pain
- Weakness
- Mouth sores
- Poor appetite
- Rash
- Shortness of breath
- Cough
- Headache

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:

- Fever of 101°F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)
- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Bleeding that does not stop after a few minutes

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)
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools
- Blood in the urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness

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