

ETOPOSIDE

FOR ORAL ADMINISTRATION



This leaflet should be used in conjunction with the complete consumer medicine information (CMI) which is available from any pharmacy.

This leaflet contains information about Etoposide and Etopophos® including details of known side effects. It does not include every possible side effect.

The type and severity of side effects experienced differs for each child. Some side effects are minor and easily treated at home. However, others may be more serious and require prompt medical assessment. Side effects from treatment are routinely monitored with blood tests and clinical examination. If you have any questions about side effects during treatment, please speak to your doctor. Also, if your child experiences any problems or side effects during treatment, please contact your doctor, clinical nurse consultant/coordinator or pharmacy staff for advice.

TWO TYPES

- Etoposide
- Etopophos® (etoposide phosphate)

OTHER NAMES

- VP-16
- Vepesid® (brand name for etoposide capsules)

PRESENTATION

- Etoposide: large pink capsules – 50mg and 100mg
- Etoposide phosphate is the water soluble form of etoposide. It is a clear, colourless liquid which is drawn up into an oral syringe

ADMINISTRATION

- Oral

SIDE EFFECTS

Common

IMMEDIATE (within 1-2 days of receiving drug)	DELAYED (within 1-2 weeks of receiving drug)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nausea• Vomiting• Loss of appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in blood count• Hair loss

Rare

- Allergic reactions which may be life-threatening. Symptoms of a severe reaction may include skin rash or hives, swelling or tingling of the lips and face, difficulty breathing and low blood pressure which may lead to collapse. Seek medical attention **immediately** if any of the above symptoms occur.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- If your child vomits within 30 minutes of taking oral etoposide or Etopophos® contact the oncology pharmacy for advice about repeating the dose.
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember if it is the same day. If it is almost time for your next dose when you remember, take the dose due and take the remainder of the course as you normally should. Do not take a double dose. Speak to your doctor or pharmacist for more information.
- Etoposide capsules should be taken on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal. Swallow capsules whole – do not crush, chew or break capsules.
- For oral liquids, each syringe is to be used once only. Discard each syringe after use.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight, wear sun-protective clothing, and use a high SPF sunscreen.
- Keep ALL medication out of the reach of children.

CONTACT

For further information, or to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's medication, please feel free to contact the Children's Cancer Centre of your child's treating hospital:

- The Royal Children's Hospital Oncology Pharmacy (03) 9345 6290
- Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Centre (03) 8572 3456 or Pharmacist desk (03) 8572 3464

Disclaimer: This information has been prepared by the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service, with input from the Children's Cancer Centre Pharmacy Departments at The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital. This information is for educational purposes only and should not be seen as a substitute for advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. If you have specific questions about the content of this information, or any other medical matter, it is recommended that you consult your doctor, pharmacist or other professional healthcare provider. This information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, however changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information.

Reviewed March 2017

Available at www.pics.org.au/families