



For the Patient: Amifostine
Other names: ETHYOL®

BC Cancer Agency

- **Amifostine** (am-i-FOS-teen) is a drug that is used to prevent some of the side effects of chemotherapy or radiation therapy. It is an injection that you will be given before your chemotherapy regimens or radiation.
- Your doctor may tell you to ***drink*** plenty of liquids (8-12 cups a day). This helps make sure your blood pressure does not drop too low during the infusion.
- Tell your doctor if you are taking ***any drugs*** as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- ***Tell*** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with amifostine before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Low blood pressure may sometimes occur while amifostine is being given.	Your blood pressure will be checked regularly during the medication infusion. Tell your nurse if you feel lightheaded or dizzy. You will be given extra fluids into your veins before you get this drug to help prevent your blood pressure from decreasing. Your blood pressure usually returns to normal within 5-10 minutes.
Nausea and vomiting may occur with amifostine and may last for 24 hours.	You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your amifostine treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Control Nausea</i>.

