

## DRUG NAME: Cyclophosphamide

**SYNONYM:** Cyclo, CPA, CPM, CTX, CYC, CYT

**COMMON TRADE NAME:** CYTOXAN®, <sup>1</sup> PROCYTOX®, NEOSAR® (USA)

**CLASSIFICATION:** Alkylating agent

*Special pediatric considerations are noted when applicable, otherwise adult provisions apply.*

### MECHANISM OF ACTION:

Cyclophosphamide is an alkylating agent of the nitrogen mustard type. <sup>2</sup> Cyclophosphamide requires activation to its active metabolite, phosphoramidate mustard, for its alkylating action. Activation occurs mainly in the liver. Phosphoramidate mustard is formed following biological transformation of aldophosphamide through oxidation by hepatic microsomal enzymes. <sup>3</sup> The cytotoxic effect of phosphoramidate mustard is mainly due to cross-linking of strands of DNA and RNA and inhibition of DNA synthesis. <sup>4</sup> These actions do not appear to be cell-cycle specific.

### PHARMACOKINETICS:

|                          |  |   |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Interpatient variability | metabolism; clearance of cyclophosphamide and its metabolites <sup>5</sup>   |   |
| Oral Absorption          | >75% <sup>2</sup> ; manufacturer recommends drug be taken on an empty stomach, but states may be taken with food to decrease GI upset <sup>6</sup> |   |
|                          | time to peak plasma concentration  | 1-2 h <sup>4</sup>  |
| Distribution             | throughout body  |   |
|                          | cross blood brain barrier?   | to limited extent <sup>2</sup>  |
|                          | volume of distribution   | 0.56 L/kg <sup>7</sup>  |
|                          | plasma protein binding <sup>8</sup>  | 12-14% of unchanged drug; 67% of total plasma alkylating metabolites <sup>7</sup>           |
| Metabolism               | mainly by microsomal enzymes in the liver; <sup>9</sup> cytochrome P450 (CYP) primarily CYP 2B6 <sup>10</sup>                                      |   |
|                          | active metabolites <sup>5</sup>  | 4-hydroxycyclophosphamide, aldophosphamide, phosphoramidate mustard, acrolein <sup>11</sup> |
|                          | inactive metabolites <sup>5</sup>  | 4-keto-cyclophosphamide, carboxyphosphamide, normitrogen mustard                            |
| Excretion                | primarily by enzymatic oxidation to active and inactive metabolites, which are mainly excreted in the urine <sup>8</sup>                           |   |
|                          | urine  | 5-25% unchanged <sup>2</sup>  |
|                          | feces  | 31-66% after oral dose  |
|                          | terminal half life <sup>8</sup>  | 6.5 h (1.8-12.4 h)  |
|                          | clearance <sup>8</sup>   | 1.17 mL/min/kg  |
| Gender                   | no clinically important differences found  |   |
| Elderly                  | no clinically important differences found  |   |
| Children                 | terminal half life 2.4-6.5 h <sup>8</sup> ; volume of distribution 0.67 L/kg <sup>8</sup>  |   |
| Ethnicity                | no clinically important differences found  |   |

Adapted from standard reference <sup>12</sup> unless specified otherwise.

## USES:

### **Primary uses:**

\*Breast cancer  
Conditioning regimen for stem cell transplant  
Ewing's sarcoma  
\*Leukemia, acute myelogenous  
\*Leukemia, chronic lymphocytic  
\*Leukemia, chronic myelogenous  
\*Leukemia, pediatric acute lymphoblastic  
\*Lung cancer  
\*Lymphoma, Burkitt's  
\*Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease  
\*Lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's  
Lymphoproliferative disease  
\*Multiple myeloma  
\*Mycosis fungoides  
\*Neuroblastoma  
\*Ovarian cancer  
\*Retinoblastoma  
Rhabdomyosarcoma

\*Health Canada approved indication

### **Other uses:**

Bladder cancer <sup>13</sup>  
Brain cancer <sup>13</sup>  
Cervical cancer <sup>13</sup>  
Endometrial cancer <sup>12</sup>  
Gestational trophoblastic neoplasia <sup>13</sup>  
Leukemia, acute lymphocytic <sup>13</sup>  
Lymphoma, cutaneous T-cell <sup>12</sup>  
Osteosarcoma <sup>13</sup>  
Soft tissue sarcoma <sup>13</sup>  
Testicular cancer <sup>13</sup>  
Thymoma <sup>13</sup>  
Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia <sup>13</sup>  
Wilm's tumour <sup>12</sup>

## SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

### **Contraindications:**

- hypersensitivity reaction to cyclophosphamide <sup>2</sup>; cross-sensitivity with other alkylating agents is possible <sup>1</sup>

### **Caution:**

- risk of **cardiotoxicity** may be increased in patients with pre-existing cardiac disease or following high dose cyclophosphamide in patients with advanced age, previous chest radiation, and/or treatment with other cardiotoxic agents <sup>3</sup>
- cyclophosphamide may **suppress positive reactions to skin test antigens** (such as tuberculin purified protein derivative, trichophyton, candida) <sup>3</sup>
- **false positive results** may be reported for Papanicolaou (**PAP**) tests <sup>3</sup>

**Carcinogenicity:** Secondary malignancies have been reported in patients treated with cyclophosphamide, alone and in combination regimens, and may develop several years after cyclophosphamide has been discontinued. Reported malignancies include urinary tract cancers, myelodysplastic alterations progressing to acute leukemias, lymphoma, thyroid cancer, and sarcomas. Urinary tract malignancies have usually occurred in patients who previously had hemorrhagic cystitis. Malignancy has also been reported after *in utero* exposure to cyclophosphamide. <sup>3</sup>

**Mutagenicity:** Cyclophosphamide is both genotoxic and mutagenic in animals. <sup>3</sup>

**Fertility:** Cyclophosphamide is genotoxic and mutagenic in somatic cells and male and female germ cells. Cyclophosphamide may cause sterility in both sexes because it interferes with oogenesis and spermatogenesis. Cyclophosphamide-induced sterility may be irreversible and appears to depend on the dose of cyclophosphamide, duration of therapy, and the state of gonadal function at the time of treatment. Amenorrhea develops in a significant proportion of women and is associated with decreased estrogen and increased gonadotropin secretion. Amenorrhea may be transient or permanent, but it is more likely to be permanent in older women. Oligomenorrhea has also been reported. The exact duration of follicular development in humans is not known, but may be longer than 12 months,

so this effect should be considered if patient is considering an intended pregnancy after cyclophosphamide treatment has ended.<sup>3</sup> The rate of permanent ovarian failure also differs with combination regimen used. For example, the rate is lower with combination regimens of doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide compared with regimens of cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and fluorouracil. Treatment with cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and fluorouracil for six months causes permanent ovarian failure in 70 percent of women over 40 years of age versus 40 percent of younger women. Also, the median time to onset of ovarian failure is shorter in older women than in younger women (2-4 months vs 6-16 months), and it is less likely to be reversible in older women (reversible in about 10 percent vs up to 50 percent in younger women).<sup>2,14</sup> Females treated with cyclophosphamide during prepubescence who have retained ovarian function after completing treatment are at increased risk of developing premature menopause (i.e., cessation of menses before age 40 years). Male patients may develop oligospermia or azoospermia, associated with increased gonadotropin and normal testosterone secretion. Males treated during prepubescence may develop normal secondary sexual characteristics, but have oligospermia or azoospermia. Azoospermia is reversible in some patients, but reversal may not occur for several years after treatment has ended. Some degree of testicular atrophy can also occur.<sup>3</sup>

**Pregnancy:** Because cyclophosphamide is genotoxic and mutagenic in somatic cells and male and female germ cells, cyclophosphamide should not be used during pregnancy and male patients should not father children during treatment or for at least 6 months after treatment has ended. Cyclophosphamide crosses the placental barrier. Exposure to cyclophosphamide *in utero* may cause miscarriage, fetal growth retardation, and fetotoxic effects in the newborn, including leukopenia, anemia, pancytopenia, severe bone marrow hypoplasia, and gastroenteritis. Malformations have been reported in babies born to mothers treated with cyclophosphamide in the first trimester. In animal studies, exposure of oocytes to cyclophosphamide during follicular development resulted in decreased implantations and viable pregnancies, and an increased risk of malformations. Based on animal data, the increased risk of failed pregnancy and malformations may persist after cyclophosphamide is discontinued. Male and female patients of reproductive potential should use contraception during treatment.<sup>3</sup>

**Breastfeeding** is not recommended as this drug is excreted in breast milk. Neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, low hemoglobin, and diarrhea have been reported in children breastfed by women treated with cyclophosphamide.<sup>3</sup>

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

The table includes adverse events that presented during drug treatment but may not necessarily have a causal relationship with the drug. Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions, the adverse event rates observed may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice. Adverse events are generally included if they were reported in more than 1% of patients in the product monograph or pivotal trials, and/or determined to be clinically important.<sup>15</sup>

| ORGAN SITE   | SIDE EFFECT  |
|--|--|
| Clinically important side effects are in <b><i>bold, italics</i></b> |  |
| allergy/immunology   | anaphylactic reaction <sup>16</sup>  |
|  | nasal congestion <sup>16</sup> (1-10%); see paragraph after <b>Side Effects</b> table                              |
| blood/bone marrow/<br>febrile neutropenia                            | anemia   |
|  | methemoglobinemia with bone marrow transplant (BMT) doses <sup>16</sup>  |
|  | <b><i>myelosuppression</i></b> ; WBC nadir 8-15 days, platelet nadir 10-15 days, recovery 17-28 days               |
|  | thrombocytopenia   |
| cardiovascular   | <b><i>cardiac dysfunction in high-dose</i></b> (<1%) <sup>16</sup> ; see paragraph after <b>Side Effects</b> table |
| coagulation  | hypoprothrombinemia, risk of bleeding (very rare)  |
| constitutional symptoms  | asthenia or sweating (<1%)   |
|  | dizziness <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |

| ORGAN SITE  | SIDE EFFECT   |
|---|---|
| Clinically important side effects are in <b>bold, italics</b> |   |
| dermatology/skin  | <i>extravasation hazard: none</i> <sup>17</sup>   |
|   | alopecia <sup>8,16</sup> (40-60%); begins 3-6 weeks after start of therapy  |
|   | facial flushing following IV administration <sup>2,16</sup> (1-10%)   |
|   | hyperpigmentation (skin and nails) <sup>2,16</sup> (<1%)  |
|   | rash, hives, or itching <sup>2,16</sup> (1-5%)  |
|   | redness, swelling, or pain at injection site <sup>2,16</sup>  |
|   | toxic epidermal necrolysis <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |
| endocrine   | hyperglycemia <sup>2</sup>  |
| gastrointestinal  | <i>emetogenic potential: (dose-related) &gt;1g high moderate; &lt;1g low moderate</i> <sup>18</sup>   |
|   | anorexia (33%)  |
|   | diarrhea <sup>16</sup> (>10%)   |
|   | hemorrhagic colitis <sup>16</sup> (<1%)   |
|   | mucositis <sup>16</sup> (>10%)  |
|   | myxedema or sore lips <sup>2</sup> (<11%)   |
|   | <b><i>nausea and vomiting</i></b> <sup>16</sup> (dose related: >90% for doses >1500 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , 60-90% for doses 750-1500 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , 30-60% for doses ≤750 mg/m <sup>2</sup> or oral); usually beginning 6-10 hours after administration |
|   | stomatitis <sup>2,16</sup> (>10%)   |
| hepatic   | hepatotoxicity <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |
|   | jaundice <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |
| metabolic/laboratory  | hyperkalemia, usually in context of tumour lysis <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |
|   | hyperuricemia with high-dose and/or long-term therapy <sup>16</sup> (<1%)   |
|   | syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone (SIADH) <sup>2,16</sup> (1-5%); see paragraph after <b>Side Effects</b> table  |
| pain  | headache <sup>2,16</sup> (1-10%)  |
| pulmonary   | interstitial pulmonary fibrosis, with high-dose and/or long-term therapy <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |
|   | pneumonitis, with high-dose and/or long-term therapy <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |
| renal/genitourinary   | non-hemorrhagic cystitis <sup>7</sup>   |
|   | <b><i>hemorrhagic cystitis</i></b> (up to 40%) <sup>16</sup> ; see paragraph after <b>Side Effects</b> table  |
|   | renal tubular necrosis <sup>16</sup> (1-5%)   |
|   | hemorrhagic ureteritis (<1%)  |
| secondary malignancy  | urinary bladder, myeloproliferative, or lymphoproliferative malignancies <sup>16</sup> (<1%)  |
| sexual/reproductive function                                  | interferes with oogenesis and spermatogenesis <sup>16</sup> (>10%); may be irreversible in some patients  |
|   | gonadal suppression (amenorrhea) <sup>2</sup>   |

Adapted from standard reference <sup>1,12</sup> unless specified otherwise.

**Cardiac toxicity** may occur in patients receiving high-dose cyclophosphamide (e.g., 60 mg/kg daily or 120-270 mg/kg over a few days).<sup>12</sup> Cardiac toxicity has ranged from minor, transient ECG changes and asymptomatic elevation of cardiac enzymes at total doses of 100 mg/kg to fatal myocarditis and myocardial necrosis at total doses ranging upwards from 144 mg/kg delivered over 4 days.<sup>5</sup> Patients may experience heart failure, arrhythmias, irreversible cardiomyopathy, pericarditis, or death as a result of cardiotoxicity. Clinical signs include dyspnea, tachypnea, fluid retention, increased systemic venous pressure and shock.<sup>19</sup> Risk factors for cardiac toxicity include previous chest or mediastinal radiotherapy, anthracycline administration, concomitant administration of chemotherapy drugs which are not normally considered cardiotoxic, especially carmustine, cytarabine, and 6-thioguanine,<sup>5</sup> and by the presence of left ventricular dysfunction (ejection fraction less than 50%).<sup>20</sup> The mechanism may involve direct injury to the endothelium by phosphoramidate mustard, an active metabolite of cyclophosphamide.<sup>20,21</sup> In contrast to anthracycline-induced cardiomyopathy which occurs months to years after cumulative doses of anthracyclines, cyclophosphamide-induced cardiotoxicity occurs much earlier and does not appear to be cumulative.<sup>5,20-22</sup> Treatment is supportive.<sup>5</sup>

**Hemorrhagic cystitis** has been reported in up to 40% of patients (especially children) on long term or high dose cyclophosphamide therapy.<sup>7,12</sup> Risk factors for developing hemorrhagic cystitis include the rate of the cyclophosphamide infusion and the rate of metabolism of cyclophosphamide, as well as the hydration status of the patient, their urine output and frequency of urination, plus concurrent exposure to other urotoxic drugs or genitourinary radiotherapy.<sup>23</sup> The mechanism may involve direct injury to the urothelium by acrolein, an active metabolite of cyclophosphamide.<sup>11</sup> Hemorrhagic cystitis can develop within a few hours or be delayed several weeks.<sup>2</sup> Clinical diagnosis is made based on non-specific symptoms such as hematuria, dysuria, urgency, and increased frequency of urination and can be confirmed using cystoscopy.<sup>23</sup> Severe hemorrhagic cystitis can lead to constriction of the bladder, anemia, recurrent urinary tract infection, bladder perforation, renal failure and death.<sup>23</sup> Longterm complications include bladder fibrosis and contraction, urinary reflux and transitional cell bladder tumours. Non-hemorrhagic cystitis, edema of the bladder and suburethral bleeding can also occur.<sup>7</sup>

Recommended *prophylactic measures* include encouraging patients to avoid taking the drug at night, to drink plenty of fluids during therapy and to void frequently. Administer cyclophosphamide as early in the day as possible to decrease the amount of drug remaining in the bladder overnight. Patients should also be well hydrated before treatment and for 24-72 hours following treatment (most adults will require at least 2 L of fluid per day). With large IV doses of cyclophosphamide, intravenous hydration is usually recommended. The use of mesna and/or continuous bladder irrigation is rarely needed for doses <2 g/m<sup>2</sup>. However, mesna has been used in patients receiving cyclophosphamide for immunologically-mediated disorders (e.g., Wegener's granulomatosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis, polyarteritis). Further measures to reduce the incidence of cystitis include catheter bladder drainage, bladder irrigation, and intravenous hydration with diuresis. Hyperhydration is generally not recommended as it places the patient at risk for fluid overload and electrolyte imbalance, particularly given the antidiuretic effect of cyclophosphamide. Diuretics may be indicated if urine production declines to <100 mL/m<sup>2</sup>/h. Mesna and hyperhydration appear to be equally effective in preventing cyclophosphamide-induced cystitis in the BMT population.<sup>2,12,16,23</sup>

*Treatment of hemorrhagic cystitis* begins with discontinuation of cyclophosphamide. Increase fluid intake and maintain the platelet count at 50 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L or higher to minimize the extent of bleeding. Several treatment options are currently advocated, depending on the severity of bleeding.<sup>12,23</sup>

*Treatment of early cystitis:*

- **First line:** Administer hyperhydration. Standard hyperhydration may consist of NS or ½NS at a rate of 3.0 L/m<sup>2</sup> per 24-hour period. Depending on the patient's electrolyte status, KCl and MgSO<sub>4</sub> are generally added to the fluid at concentrations of 20-40 mEq/L and 2-4 g/L respectively. Patients who have visible clots in the urine, or have bladder spasms should receive continuous bladder irrigation. Treatment is generally continued for 48 hours after the urine returns to normal colour and symptoms have resolved.<sup>24</sup>
- **Second line:** Initiate a bladder irrigation with alum (aluminum potassium sulphate) which is prepared by pharmacy as a 1% solution for intravesical administration. This is instilled at a rate of 300-1000 mL/hour and the rate is adjusted to maintain clear pink drainage. Responses to alum are improved following removal of clots in the bladder using either cystoscopy or irrigation prior to therapy. As alum contains significant amounts of aluminum, aluminum levels should be taken in patients with renal impairment or requiring prolonged therapy.<sup>24</sup>

- **Third line:** Administer prostaglandin (CARBOPROST®) which is thought to stimulate platelet aggregation and cause local vasoconstriction. The dose is generally 400-500 mcg (0.8-1.0 mg/dL in 50 mL NS) instilled into the bladder. Clamp catheter and allow solution to dwell for 60 minutes. Repeat every six hours until response. Like alum, this therapy works best when the bladder is evacuated of clots before starting. Patients who respond will do so by 5-7 days. CARBOPROST® can cause intense bladder spasm and this can be a major problem. Therapy with oxybutynin, belladonna and opium suppositories, or systemic narcotic analgesics may be necessary to manage bladder spasm.
- In rare cases, hemorrhagic cystitis is resistant to the above treatments and bladder fulguration with formalin or other chemicals is needed. <sup>24</sup>

**Treatment of late onset cystitis:**

Many cases of late onset cystitis are due to secondary viral infection or bacterial infection of the injured mucosa. Before starting therapy, culture for bacterial pathogens, cytomegalovirus (CMV) and adenovirus. Primary therapy is hyperhydration, possibly with bladder irrigation plus anti-infective treatment if a pathogen is found. <sup>24</sup>

**Hyperuricemia** may result from cell lysis by cyclophosphamide and may lead to electrolyte disturbances or acute renal failure. <sup>25</sup> It is most likely with highly proliferative tumours of massive burden, such as leukemias, high-grade lymphomas, and myeloproliferative diseases. The risk may be increased in patients with preexisting renal dysfunction, especially ureteral obstruction. Suggested prophylactic treatment for high-risk patients <sup>26</sup>:

- aggressive hydration: 3 L/m<sup>2</sup>/24 hr with target urine output >100 mL/h
- if possible, discontinue drugs that cause hyperuricemia (e.g., thiazide diuretics) or acidic urine (e.g., salicylates)
- monitor electrolytes, calcium, phosphate, renal function, LDH, and uric acid q6h x 24-48 hours
- replace electrolytes as required
- allopurinol 600 mg po initially, then 300 mg po q6h x6 doses, then 300 mg po daily x 5-7 days

Urine should be alkalinized only if the uric acid level is elevated, using sodium bicarbonate IV or PO titrated to maintain urine pH >7. Rasburicase (FASTURTEC®) is a novel uricolytic agent that catalyzes the oxidation of uric acid to a water-soluble metabolite, removing the need for alkalinization of the urine. <sup>27</sup> It may be used for treatment or prophylaxis of hyperuricemia; however, its place in therapy has not yet been established. Aluminum hydroxide (e.g., AMPHOGEL®) may be added orally if phosphate becomes elevated. If aluminum hydroxide has been added, discontinue sodium bicarbonate. <sup>28</sup>

**Nasal stuffiness or facial discomfort** may occur. Patients experience runny eyes, rhinorrhea, sinus congestion, and sneezing immediately after infusion. This nasopharyngeal discomfort or “wasabi nose” may be associated with rapid injection of cyclophosphamide. <sup>16</sup> The reaction may be caused by a mucosal inflammatory response or possibly a cholinergic mechanism. If troublesome for the patient, several interventions have been used such as slowing the rate of infusion, analgesics, decongestants, antihistamines, intranasal beclomethasone, or intranasal ipratropium. <sup>29-32</sup>

**Pulmonary toxicity**, including **pneumonitis**, **pulmonary fibrosis**, pulmonary veno-occlusive disease, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and respiratory failure have been reported during and following treatment with cyclophosphamide. Pneumonitis may develop years after treatment has ended, although acute pulmonary toxicity has also been reported after a single dose of cyclophosphamide. Late onset pneumonitis, occurring greater than 6 months after the start of cyclophosphamide, appears to be associated with a particularly high mortality. <sup>3</sup> Risk of interstitial pulmonary fibrosis may be higher in patients receiving high doses of cyclophosphamide over prolonged periods or who have been exposed to other drugs with pulmonary toxicities and/or pulmonary radiotherapy. The mechanism for pulmonary toxicity may involve direct injury to the pulmonary epithelium by cyclophosphamide metabolites. In some cases, discontinuation of the drug and initiating corticosteroid therapy fails to reverse the condition, which can be fatal. Signs and symptoms typically include tachycardia, dyspnea, fever, non-productive cough, basilar crepitant rales, interstitial bilateral infiltrates on chest x-ray, hypoxemia, and ventilation/perfusion dysfunction. Discontinue cyclophosphamide at the first sign of pulmonary toxicity and exclude all other possible causes of pneumonitis. <sup>12,33</sup>

Cyclophosphamide has the potential to enhance **radiation injury** to tissues. This is a rare side effect. While often called radiation recall reactions, the timing of the radiation may be before, concurrent with, or even after the administration of the cyclophosphamide. Recurrent injury to a previously radiated site may occur weeks to months following the radiation. <sup>2</sup>

**Secondary malignancies** have developed in some patients, often several years after administration. The most frequently reported neoplasms are urinary bladder cancer, non-lymphocytic leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Urinary bladder malignancies generally have occurred in patients who previously had hemorrhagic cystitis. <sup>1,7</sup>

**Syndrome of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone (SIADH)** may occur in patients receiving cyclophosphamide, resulting in hyponatremia, dizziness, confusion or agitation, unusual tiredness or weakness. This syndrome is more common with cyclophosphamide doses 50 mg/kg or higher and may be aggravated by the administration of large volumes of fluids to prevent hemorrhagic cystitis. The condition is self-limiting. Diuretic therapy may be helpful in the situation when the patient has stopped urinating (especially if this occurs during the first 24 hours of cyclophosphamide therapy). Susceptible patients should be monitored for cardiac decompensation. If weight gain is excessive (e.g., 1.5-2 kg) during hydration, the volume of IV fluid should be reduced. <sup>1,9</sup>

Administration of cyclophosphamide in doses higher than 30-40 mg/kg has been associated with **water retention and dilutional hyponatremia**. Children may be especially susceptible. The mechanism is related to direct injury to the distal renal tubules and collecting ducts by cyclophosphamide metabolites. Symptoms include decreased urine flow, decreased serum osmolality and sodium, and increased urine osmolality. Symptoms can occur 4 to 12 hours after cyclophosphamide and generally resolve within 20 to 24 hours after therapy. <sup>9,12</sup>

#### INTERACTIONS:

| AGENT                            | EFFECT   | MECHANISM  | MANAGEMENT   |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| allopurinol <sup>34</sup>        | 38% increase in toxic cyclophosphamide metabolites; 2-fold increase in half-life of cyclophosphamide; up to 3-fold increase in bone marrow suppressant effects due to cyclophosphamide <sup>34</sup> | unknown; may be related to allopurinol's effects on hepatic metabolism or renal excretion of cyclophosphamide metabolites <sup>34</sup>  | monitor for cyclophosphamide toxicity <sup>34</sup>  |
| digoxin <sup>34,35</sup>         | digoxin AUC reduced by 45.6% when digoxin tablets were administered within 5 days of high dose cyclophosphamide and total body irradiation <sup>35</sup>   | reduced absorption of digoxin tablets possibly caused by the temporary slowing of cell division induced by cyclophosphamide and resulting diminished epithelial mass in the gastrointestinal tract <sup>35</sup> | check digoxin levels and monitor for reduced digoxin efficacy                                |
| grapefruit juice <sup>36</sup>   | decreased or delayed activation of cyclophosphamide, which may impair efficacy   | moderate inhibition of CYP 3A4 metabolism in the intestinal wall <sup>16,37</sup> by grapefruit juice  | avoid grapefruit juice for 48 hours before starting oral cyclophosphamide and on day of dose |
| phenobarbital <sup>3,34,38</sup> | may increase rate of conversion to active and inactive cyclophosphamide metabolites  | strong induction of CYP 2B6 by phenobarbital <sup>16,38</sup>  | monitor for increased cyclophosphamide toxicity <sup>3</sup>                                 |
| phenytoin <sup>3,10,34</sup>     | may increase rate of conversion to active and inactive cyclophosphamide metabolites  | strong induction of CYP 2B6 by phenytoin <sup>16,38</sup>  | monitor for increased cyclophosphamide toxicity <sup>3</sup>                                 |

| AGENT                            | EFFECT  | MECHANISM   | MANAGEMENT  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| rifampin <sup>3,34,38</sup>      | may increase rate of conversion to active and inactive cyclophosphamide metabolites   | strong induction of CYP 2B6 by rifampin <sup>16,38</sup>  | monitor for increased cyclophosphamide toxicity <sup>3</sup>  |
| succinylcholine <sup>34,39</sup> | increased serum concentration of succinylcholine <sup>34</sup> ; prolonged neuromuscular blockade produced by succinylcholine is probable | cyclophosphamide inhibition of plasma cholinesterase resulting in decreased metabolism of succinylcholine | monitor for succinylcholine toxicity <sup>34</sup> ; consider succinylcholine dose reduction based on measured plasma cholinesterase levels |
| warfarin <sup>3,34,39</sup>      | increased and decreased warfarin effects have been reported <sup>3</sup>  | unknown <sup>34</sup> ; may inhibit warfarin metabolism or clotting factor synthesis <sup>39</sup>        | monitor coagulation parameters; adjust warfarin dose as needed  |

Adapted from standard reference unless specified otherwise.

## SUPPLY AND STORAGE:

**Oral** : Baxter Corporation supplies cyclophosphamide as 50 mg sugar-coated tablets. Tablets contain lactose. Store at room temperature. Protect from direct light. <sup>36,40</sup>

### **Injection** :

Andone Pharmaceutical Inc. supplies cyclophosphamide as 1000 mg and 2000 mg single-use (preservative free) vials of crystalline powder for reconstitution. Store at room temperature. Protect from direct light. Do not use vials with melted content. <sup>41</sup>

Baxter Corporation supplies cyclophosphamide as 500 mg, 1000 mg, and 2000 mg single-use (preservative free) vials of crystalline powder for reconstitution. Store at room temperature. Protect from direct light. Do not use vials with melted content. <sup>36,40</sup>

Marcan Pharmaceuticals Inc. supplies cyclophosphamide as 500 mg, 1000 mg, and 2000 mg single-use (preservative free) vials of crystalline powder for reconstitution. Store at room temperature. Protect from direct light. Do not use vials with melted content. <sup>42</sup>

SteriMax Inc. supplies cyclophosphamide as 500 mg, 1000 mg, and 2000 mg single-use (preservative free) vials of crystalline powder for reconstitution. Store at room temperature. Protect from direct light. Do not use vials with melted content. <sup>3</sup>

**For basic information on the current brand used at BC Cancer, see [Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart](#) in Appendix.**

## SOLUTION PREPARATION AND COMPATIBILITY:

**For basic information on the current brand used at BC Cancer, see [Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart](#) in Appendix.**

**Compatibility:** consult detailed reference

**Additional information:** Cyclophosphamide **oral suspension** may be prepared using the intravenous formulation. Reconstitute vials with normal saline to a concentration of 20 mg/mL. Withdraw vial contents and dilute 1:1 with suspending vehicle (simple syrup or ORA-PLUS®). Prepared suspensions in either suspending vehicle are stable 2

months in the refrigerator. When stored at room temperature, simple syrup preparations are stable 3 days and ORA-PLUS® preparations are stable 8 days. <sup>43</sup>

**PARENTERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

BC Cancer administration guideline noted in ***bold, italics***

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Subcutaneous                        | no information found   |
| Intramuscular                       | has been used  |
| <b><i>Direct intravenous</i></b>    | <b><i>each 100 mg or fraction thereof over at least 1 minute</i></b>                 |
| <b><i>Intermittent infusion</i></b> | <b><i>over 20-60 minutes</i></b>   |
| <b><i>Continuous infusion</i></b>   | <b><i>the dose can be administered in a convenient volume</i></b>                    |
| Intraperitoneal                     | has been used but not recommended due to need for metabolic activation <sup>12</sup> |
| Intrapleural                        | has been used but not recommended due to need for metabolic activation <sup>12</sup> |
| Intrathecal                         | no information found; metabolic activation required <sup>12</sup>                    |
| Intra-arterial                      | no information found   |
| Intravesical                        | no information found   |

**DOSAGE GUIDELINES:**

Refer to protocol by which patient is being treated. Numerous dosing schedules exist and depend on disease, response and concomitant therapy. Guidelines for dosing also include consideration of absolute neutrophil count. Dosage may be reduced, delayed or discontinued in patients with bone marrow depression due to cytotoxic/radiation therapy or with other toxicities.

**Adults:**

BC Cancer usual dose noted in ***bold, italics***

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b><i>Oral:</i></b>   | Cycle Length:<br>4 weeks <sup>44,45</sup> | <b><i>100 mg/m<sup>2</sup></i></b> (range 75-100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ) <b><i>PO once daily for 14 consecutive days</i></b><br>(total dose per cycle 1400 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )                                     |
|   | 3-4 weeks <sup>45:</sup>                  | <b><i>300 mg/m<sup>2</sup></i></b> (range 200-450 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ) <b><i>PO once daily for 5 consecutive days</i></b><br>(total dose per cycle 1500 mg/m <sup>2</sup> [range 1000-2250 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ]) |
| Round dose to the nearest <b>50 mg</b> .<br>The manufacturer recommends that the drug be taken on an empty stomach, but states it may be taken with food to decrease GI upset. <sup>6</sup> |   |  |
| <b><i>Intravenous:</i></b>  | 3 weeks <sup>46-49</sup>                  | <b><i>600 mg/m<sup>2</sup></i></b> (range 500-1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ) <b><i>IV for one dose on day 1</i></b>  |
|   | 4 weeks <sup>50:</sup>                    | <b><i>1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1</i></b>   |
|   | 6 weeks <sup>51:</sup>                    | <b><i>1200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1</i></b>   |

BC Cancer usual dose noted in ***bold, italics***

- Cycle Length:
- 4 weeks <sup>44</sup>: ***525 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1 and day 15***  
(total dose per cycle 1050 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - 4 weeks <sup>52</sup>: ***1200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1 and day 8***  
(total dose per cycle 2400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - 11 weeks <sup>48</sup>: ***1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1 and day 56***  
(total dose per cycle 2000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)

*High dose protocols with or without bone marrow transplant: note: ideal body weight is often used.*

- 60 mg/kg IV for one dose on day -3 and day -2*** <sup>53</sup>  
(total dose 120 mg/kg over 2 days)
- 50 mg/kg IV for one dose on day -6, day -5 and day -4*** <sup>54</sup>  
(total dose 150 mg/kg over 3 days)
- 2700 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1 and day 2*** <sup>55</sup>  
(total dose 5400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 2 days)
- 2500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1***
- 1800 mg/m<sup>2</sup> once daily IV for five consecutive days starting on day -5*** <sup>56</sup>  
(total dose 7200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 4 days)
- 1800 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day -6, day -5, day -4 and day -3*** <sup>57,58</sup>  
(total dose 7200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 4 days)
- 2000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 3, day 4 and day 5*** <sup>59</sup>  
(total dose 6000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 3 days)
- 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1 and day 2*** <sup>60</sup>  
(total dose 2000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 2 days)

**Concurrent radiation:** infrequently radiation is given during treatment <sup>51,61</sup>; more often given following chemotherapy <sup>44,62-68</sup>

**Dosage in myelosuppression:** modify according to protocol by which patient is being treated

**Dosage in renal failure:** Suggested dose modifications <sup>69</sup>:

| <b>Creatinine clearance (mL/min)</b> | <b>Cyclophosphamide dose</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ≥10                                  | 100%                         |
| <10                                  | 75%                          |

Calculated creatinine clearance =  $\frac{N \times (140 - \text{Age}) \times \text{weight}}{\text{serum creatinine in micromol/L}}$

\* For males N = 1.23; for females N = 1.04

BC Cancer usual dose noted in ***bold, italics***

*Dosage in hepatic failure:* Cycle Length: **no information found; however, severe hepatic impairment may result in decreased activation of cyclophosphamide and reduce its efficacy**<sup>3</sup>

*Dosage in dialysis:* dialyzable with a high extraction efficiency<sup>8</sup>

hemodialysis: ½ dose has been suggested<sup>69</sup>  
Case reports: there have been 2 case reports giving high-dose cyclophosphamide with continuous bladder irrigation +/- mesna<sup>70,71</sup>; hemodialysis (duration 6 h) was performed 6 h<sup>70</sup> and 14 h<sup>71</sup> after cyclophosphamide infusion  
Dialysis should not be started sooner than 12 h after cyclophosphamide infusion<sup>72</sup>

chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD):  
dose as for GFR <10 mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (i.e., administer 75% of dose)<sup>73</sup>

continuous arteriovenous or venovenous hemofiltration (CAVH):  
dose as for GFR 10-50 mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (i.e., administer 100% dose)<sup>69</sup>

**Children:**

|              |                           |   |
|--------------|---------------------------|---|
| Oral:        | Cycle Length:<br>daily    | 50-300 mg/m <sup>2</sup> PO daily   |
| Intravenous: | 3-4 weeks <sup>74</sup> : | 250-1800 mg/m <sup>2</sup> IV for one dose for 4 consecutive days, on days 1 to 4 |
|              | 3-4 weeks <sup>75</sup> : | up to 2000-3000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> IV for one dose on day 1                        |

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