

# How to administer oral Etoposide at home

Etoposide is a chemotherapy medicine usually given once a day by mouth as a capsule or a liquid.

## Common side effects

Refer to the 'Common Chemotherapy Drugs' table in the **GREEN** section for side effects.

## Important information for the safe administration of your child's chemotherapy

- Keep all medicines in a safe place where children cannot reach them.
- If prescribed, give a dose of anti-sickness medicine 30 minutes before each dose of Etoposide.
- You should handle oral chemotherapy drugs with care and avoid touching them. If you prefer you can wear a pair of household rubber gloves to protect yourself. Do not use these gloves for any other purpose.
- Medicines should always be taken as directed by your doctor.
- If you forget to give your child a dose, do not give them a double dose. Inform your nurse or doctor and keep to your child's regular dose schedule.
- If you accidentally spill the liquid, wash the area thoroughly with plenty of warm soapy water.
- If the mixture accidentally splashes into your eyes, wash with plenty of running water for at least ten minutes.
- Dispose of paper towels or vomit soiled waste in a separate rubbish bag and place in your normal rubbish.
- If your child vomits after taking their dose, do not repeat the dose. Seek advice from your local hospital.
- Please return any unused capsules or unused oral syringes to your local hospital for disposal.

## How to give Etoposide capsules

- Capsules should be swallowed whole.
- Ask your child to rest one at the back of his or her mouth.
- Give your child a drink.
- The tablet or capsule should be swallowed along with the drink. It can help to look up while swallowing.

### How to give Etoposide in liquid form

- Your child's Etoposide will be supplied to you from the pharmacy in oral syringes or individual bottles.
- These should be stored at room temperature, out of direct sunlight and out of sight and reach of children.
- You will need a pair of rubber gloves for preparing the Etoposide.
- Put on your gloves and empty the contents of the oral syringe into a glass (NOT a plastic beaker).
- Add some water/squash to this glass and make up to a suitable volume for your child.
- Carefully draw up some of this solution into the oral syringe by pulling back the plunger. This is to rinse out any remaining Etoposide from the oral syringe. Add this to the glass. Repeat this a couple of times.
- Put the empty syringe, cap or bottle into the sharps bin. Your nurse will supply you with a sharps bin.
- Give the dose to your child.
- If your child vomits after taking their dose, do not repeat the dose. Seek advice from your local hospital.
- Dispose of paper towels or vomit soiled waste in a separate rubbish bag and place in your normal rubbish.
- Wash the drinking glass out separately in warm soapy water and keep for the next dose of Etoposide. Do not use the glass or gloves for other purposes.
- At the end of each course or when the sharps bin is three-quarters full, close it and take it to your local hospital or give to your community nurse for disposal. Do not dispose of it in the household rubbish.

If at any time you are concerned about your child whilst they are taking this medicine please telephone the contact numbers on the contact sheet in your patient/parent held oncology record for advice from your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.