



# NYUCancerInstitute

## P A T I E N T I N F O R M A T I O N

The side effects listed below are those that occur most frequently. Other side effects may occur; please contact your doctor or oncology nurse to report any medical problems.

Dose \_\_\_\_\_

### IRINOTECAN (Camptosar®)

#### **Early Side Effects**

- a. Diarrhea may be severe but is usually transient. It can occur during or within 24 hours of administration of Irinotecan. If you develop sweats, abdominal cramping, or diarrhea inform your nurse or doctor. An antidiarrheal agent can be given to help control these symptoms.
- b. Nausea and vomiting can occur and is usually moderate to severe in severity. Your physician can prescribe medication to help control these symptoms. Also, decreased appetite may occur.
- c. Fever, weakness, abdominal pain may occur.

#### **Late Side Effects**

- a. Hair loss may occur. This loss is temporary and your hair will grow back after the drug has been discontinued.
- b. A drop in blood cell counts will occur 7 - 14 days after treatment. Your doctor will monitor your cell counts with regular blood draws.
- c. Diarrhea may be severe and may occur eleven days after initial treatment. Your doctor will prescribe an antidiarrheal agent (Loperamide) to help minimize this effect. Take Loperamide (also known as Imodium A-D) at the first episode of poorly formed or loose stools or the earliest onset of bowel movements more frequent than normal. Take as directed until diarrhea resolves. Avoid use of laxatives, magnesium-containing antacids, or foods, which may cause or worsen diarrhea. It is important to maintain adequate fluid intake to prevent dehydration.