



## Etoposide (VP-16, Toposar<sup>®</sup>, VePesid<sup>®</sup>, Etopophos<sup>®</sup>)

Generic Name: etoposide

Drug Name: VP-16, Toposar<sup>®</sup>, VePesid<sup>®</sup>, Etopophos<sup>®</sup>

Purpose: Etoposide is a chemotherapy drug used to treat certain types of cancer. It interferes with cell reproduction and growth to prevent the cancer from growing or spreading.

How drug is given:

- Etoposide may be given orally (by mouth) in capsule form. Disposable gloves should be worn if pills are handled by someone other than you. You **MUST** swallow the pills whole. **DO NOT BREAK OR CRUSH PILLS!**
- Etoposide may be given intravenously (IV) into a vein by a specially trained nurse at the hospital or Cancer Center.

Possible Side Effects:

- **Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you feel any of the following during your IV treatment of etoposide:**
  - flushing (redness) of your face
  - wheezing
  - difficulty breathing
  - tightness in your throat
- Low blood pressure while you are receiving etoposide intravenously
  - Your nurse may monitor your blood pressure during treatment.
  - Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you feel:
    - dizzy
    - weak
- Mild nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea
- Low white blood cell count. Call your healthcare provider if you have:
  - fever
  - new cough
- Low red blood cell count. Call your healthcare provider if you feel:
  - dizzy
  - short of breath
  - very tired
- Low platelet count. Call your healthcare provider if you have:
  - bleeding
  - new bruises
  - tiny red spots on skin
- Temporary hair loss starting approximately 2 weeks after first treatment. Your hair will grow back.



**Important:**

1. Talk about contraception (birth control) and/or family planning with your doctor while taking etoposide.
2. Keep this medicine in the refrigerator. DO NOT put the medicine in the freezer.