



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 _____

IFOSFAMIDE (Ifex®)

Early Side Effects

- a. Mild to moderate nausea and vomiting may occur. It is usually worse on the first day of treatment. You will be given intravenous antiemetic drugs to alleviate and prevent this side effect, but these drugs may cause drowsiness.
- b. A loss of appetite may occur.
- c. Bladder irritation and bleeding may occur. To prevent this side effect a protective agent called "mesna" will be given to you with the Ifosfamide. You will require daily intravenous fluids to ensure good urine output. Your urine will be checked for traces of blood.
- d. Ifosfamide can cause damage to the kidneys that is reversible but causes the kidneys to lose potassium and bicarbonate in the urine if the damage is not corrected. In order to decrease this side effect you will receive intravenous fluid with potassium and bicarbonate based on your daily laboratory results. In addition, you may be given oral supplements of bicarbonate and potassium.
- e. Lethargy and confusion may be experienced. However, these side effects are reversible and decrease as the drug is excreted. Hallucinations and seizures occur (very rarely). If this rare complication arises, it goes away after the drug is stopped.

Late Side Effects

- a. A drop in blood cell counts usually occurs 7 to 14 days after beginning of treatment.
- b. Hair loss may occur 2 to 3 weeks after treatment. This is temporary and your hair will grow back after the drug has been discontinued.