

Ifosfamide

(eye-foss-fa-mide)

Category: Anticancer Agent

Other Names for this Medication: Ifex®

Common Dosage Forms: **Veterinary:** None. **Human:** 1 g & 3 g vials for injection.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Ifosfamide is a chemotherapy (anticancer) drug. The drug can be hazardous to other animals and people that come in contact with it. On the day your animal gets the drug and then for a few days afterward, all bodily waste (urine, feces), blood, or vomit should only be handled while wearing disposable chemotherapy-resistant gloves. Seal the waste and any items used to clean it (eg, paper towels, gloves) in a plastic bag and then place bag in another bag (double bag) before placing in with the regular trash.
- ▶ See the side effects section for important information.

How is this medication useful?

Ifosfamide is an injectable chemotherapy drug that may be used to treat a variety of veterinary cancers in humans and animals.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animal patients. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. Your veterinarian can discuss you why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian so that I can give this medication safely to my animal?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. It is very important to discuss the following things with your veterinarian so together you can make the best decisions for treating your animal.

- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have or had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used:

- ▶ In animals that have experienced a severe allergic reaction to it.
- ▶ Alone. This medicine must be given in combination with the drug mesna to protect the urinary bladder.
- ▶ In animals with severely depressed bone marrow function.
- ▶ In animals with active inflammation in their urine (ie, hemorrhagic cystitis).

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ With bone marrow suppression or active infections. Your veterinarian may choose to delay use of ifosfamide if your animal has either of these.
- ▶ With kidney disease (extreme caution).

If your pet has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

- ▶ Bone marrow suppression can occur; watch for weakness, fever, bruising, and bleeding. Your veterinarian will check for this, but if you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ Urinary bladder damage. Dogs receiving ifosfamide are likely to have some damage to the bladder. In order to prevent this, your veterinarian will give your animal the drug mesna (and possibly other medicines to help) during treatment with ifosfamide. Your veterinarian may also recommend that you take your dog outside more often to encourage urination. Bladder damage can occur in cats, but more rarely than in dogs. If your pet has blood in its urine after receiving ifosfamide, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ GI (gastrointestinal) toxicity (eg, vomiting, lack of appetite, diarrhea). If you see severe vomiting or bloody diarrhea, call your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ Neurotoxicity (nerve toxicity). Signs associated with nerve toxicity can include sleepiness, behavior changes, and coma. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you see any of these signs.
- ▶ Kidney damage.
- ▶ Dogs: Loss of fur. Many dogs receiving chemotherapy will have minor hair coat changes (eg, shagginess, loss of luster). Breeds with continuously growing hair coats (eg, poodles, terriers, Afghan hounds, or old English sheepdogs) are more likely to experience significant hair loss.

What should I do if I cannot make a scheduled treatment visit?

This drug must be dosed carefully. Contact your veterinarian if you are unable to make a scheduled treatment.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

- ▶ You will not be handling this medication, but for a few days after your animal receives it, this drug can be found in the animal's saliva, urine, feces, and blood. This drug can cause serious adverse effects in people or animals that are exposed to it, disposable chemotherapy-resistant gloves should be worn to avoid contact with bare skin. Be careful not to accidentally rub your eyes. Wear gloves when disposing of cat litter or dog droppings or cleaning up urine spills or vomit. Do not reuse gloves. Seal the waste with all gloves and items used to clean it (eg, paper towels) in a plastic bag, then place into an additional plastic bag (double bag) before putting in the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not let treated animals lick human skin. If skin exposure occurs, the area should be washed thoroughly with soap and water. Contact your physician if you have any concerns.
- ▶ Pregnant women **SHOULD NOT** handle any waste or items used to clean the waste while your animal is on this drug.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Your veterinarian will need to perform follow up examinations and lab work on your animal after it receives this medication. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- ▶ Your animal should not receive vaccines containing live (or modified live) viruses while receiving this medication.
- ▶ In the interest of safety to other animals and humans, don't take your dog to a dog park or allow your animal to urinate and defecate in public places until your veterinarian tells you that it is okay to do so.
- ▶ Your animal should not participate in animal competitions while on this drug. Exposure to other animals may put your animal at serious risk of infections during chemotherapy treatment. Talk with your veterinarian about when it is safe to return to these events.

If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.