For the Patient: LUSCPOE

Other Names: Treatment of Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) with Oral Etoposide

LU = LUng
SC = Small **C**ell
PO = Oral
E = Etoposide

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What is this drug used for?
Etoposide is a drug given to treat Small Cell Lung Cancer. It is a capsule which is taken by mouth.

How does this drug work?
Etoposide is an anticancer drug that works by *preventing* the synthesis of the DNA that is needed for cancer cells to divide.

INTENDED BENEFITS

This treatment is being given to slow down the growth of cancer cells in your body. This chemotherapy treatment can help with controlling some of the symptoms the cancer may be causing, such as pain, coughing, wheezing, difficulty swallowing, weight loss and fatigue. This treatment may delay or prevent new symptoms from starting.

LUSCPOE TREATMENT SUMMARY

How is this drug given?
- Your treatment plan consists of up to 6 chemotherapy "cycles". Each cycle lasts 3 weeks (21 days).
- For each cycle, etoposide is taken twice a day, about 12 hours apart, for 7 days, followed by a 14 day break. It is preferably taken on an empty stomach with a glass of water, but may be taken with food if needed.

What will happen when I get the drug?
- A blood test is done within one month of starting treatment.
- A blood test is also done before Day 1 of each cycle.
- You will see your oncologist before each cycle begins.
- The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on your blood test results and/or other side effects.

LUSCPOE TREATMENT PROTOCOL

C Y C L E 1	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		► Week 1 ➜ Etoposide orally in a.m. & p.m. x 7 days
		Week 2 ➜ No treatment
		Week 3 ➜ No treatment

This 21-day cycle will repeat up to 5 more times

CHEMOTHERAPY SIDE EFFECTS AND MANAGEMENT:

- Your oncologist will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment.
- The pharmacist will review how to take the medication and possible side effects with you on the day you first pick up your medication.
- Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. Please refer to the patient information handout entitled "***For the Patient: Etoposide Capsules***" for a complete list of possible side effects and their management.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PATIENT

What other drugs can interact with LUSCPOE?

- Other drugs such as atovaquone (MEPRON®), warfarin (COUMADIN®), glucosamine and St John's Wort may interact with etoposide. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests, your dose may need to be changed or your treatment may need to be held for a few days.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new prescription or non-prescription drugs.

Other important things to know:

- Avoid **grapefruit** and **grapefruit juice** starting 3 days before and ending 1 day after taking etoposide, as these may interact with etoposide.
- The drinking of alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of this treatment.
- Etoposide may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before starting treatment.
- This treatment may damage sperm and may cause harm to the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use *birth control* while you are undergoing treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- Tell all doctors or dentists you see that you are being treated with etoposide before you receive any treatment from them.

If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described in "*For the Patient: Etoposide Capsules*" but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact: _____ at telephone number: _____