



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Irinotecan liposomal**

Other names: ONIVYDE®

- **Irinotecan liposomal** (eye-REEN-oh-TEE-can LY-poh-SO-mal) is a drug that is used to treat some kinds of cancer. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to irinotecan or irinotecan liposomal before receiving irinotecan liposomal.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on your test results and/or other side effects.
- Other drugs such as phenytoin (DILANTIN®) and ketoconazole (NIZORAL®) may **interact** with irinotecan liposomal. Do not take laxatives during treatment with irinotecan liposomal. Tell your doctor if you are taking any other drugs as your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of irinotecan liposomal.
- Irinotecan liposomal may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with irinotecan liposomal. Ask your doctor how long you should continue using birth control after your treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with irinotecan liposomal before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Allergic reactions</b> may rarely occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include flushing, rash, itching, dizziness, headache, nausea, swelling or breathing problems.</p> <p>This can occur immediately or several hours after receiving irinotecan liposomal.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving irinotecan liposomal or contact your healthcare team <b>immediately</b> if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>
<p><b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.</p>	<p>Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.</p>
<p><b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.</p>	<p>You will be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your treatment and/or at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b>, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul> <p>Tell your healthcare team if nausea or vomiting continues or is not controlled with your antinausea drug(s).</p>
<p><b>Early diarrhea</b> may occur during or shortly after an irinotecan liposomal treatment (within 24 hours). It may start with watery eyes, stomach cramps and sweating. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your healthcare team <b>immediately</b> if you have watery eyes, stomach cramps, or sweating during or after your treatment.</li> <li>• Early diarrhea is treated with a medication called atropine which is injected under your skin. If your cancer centre is closed, your healthcare team may tell you to go to your Hospital Emergency for atropine treatment.</li> </ul>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Late diarrhea</b> may occur one day to several days after an irinotecan liposomal treatment. It starts with stools more loose or more often than usual. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.</p>	<p><b>Late diarrhea must be treated <i>immediately</i> with loperamide 2 mg tablets</b> (e.g., IMODIUM®):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take <b>TWO tablets</b> at the first sign of loose or more frequent stools than usual.</li> <li>• Then take <b>ONE tablet</b> every <b>TWO hours</b> until diarrhea has stopped for 12 hours.</li> <li>• At night, you may take <b>TWO tablets</b> every <b>FOUR hours</b> (set your alarm) during the time you usually sleep.</li> <li>• <b>This dose is much higher than the package directions. It is very important that you take this higher dose to stop the diarrhea.</b></li> <li>• Always keep a supply of loperamide (e.g., have 48 tablets on hand). You can buy loperamide at any pharmacy without a prescription.</li> </ul> <p>To help diarrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of liquids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fiber foods as outlined in <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.*</li> <li>• A dietitian can give you more suggestions for dealing with diarrhea.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tell your healthcare team if diarrhea does not improve 24 hours after starting loperamide or lasts more than 36 hours.</b></p>
<p>Your <b>white blood cells</b> may decrease after your treatment. White blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, <b>you are at greater risk of having an infection.</b></p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> </ul> <p>Call your healthcare team <b><i>immediately</i></b> at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Sore mouth</b> may sometimes occur. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth, or in the throat. <b>Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste.</li> <li>• Make a mouthwash with ¼ teaspoon baking soda AND ¼ teaspoon salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Try with a Sore Mouth</i>.*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Loss of appetite and weight loss</b> may occur.</p>	<p>Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i>.*</p>
<p><b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hair loss</b> sometimes occurs with irinotecan liposomal. Colour and texture may change.</p>	<p>If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i>.*</p>
<p><b>Blood clots</b> may sometimes occur. Signs to watch for include tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.</p>	<p>To help prevent blood clots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep active.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Avoid tight clothing.</li> <li>• Do not sit with your legs crossed at the knees.</li> </ul>

**\*Please ask your nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

### CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine
- **Diarrhea** that occurs within the first 24 hours after irinotecan liposomal treatment.
- Signs of **severe fluid loss** due to diarrhea such as fainting, light-headedness or dizziness.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.

