

Amifostine

Names	The generic drug name is amifostine (am-i-FOS-teen). The brand name is Ethyol®. There may be other names for this medication.
Why am I Receiving Amifostine?	Amifostine is used to prevent and decrease side effects associated with certain chemotherapy medications, such as cisplatin. It may be used to help relieve the dry mouth problems caused by radiation therapy to the head and neck areas, and in the treatment of some types of blood cell diseases.
How is it Given and How Does it Work?	Your medication will be given by injection into a vein (IV or intravenous) before some types of chemotherapy or radiation therapy. Amifostine is in a class of drugs known as cytoprotectants; it minimizes the harmful effects of cisplatin and radiation treatment.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to amifostine or have any allergies• are taking medication for high blood pressure (hypertension)• have or have ever had kidney disease, chest pain (angina), irregular heartbeats, heart failure, a stroke, or a mini-stroke• are pregnant or breastfeeding <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, or supplements that you are taking.</p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nausea and vomiting• Low blood pressure• Sneezing, hiccups• Warmth/redness (flushing) in face/neck; feeling hot or cold (chills)• Dizziness, drowsiness
How Can I Manage These Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask your doctor about medication to prevent/ lessen nausea and vomiting. If nausea is a problem, try eating smaller, more frequent meals.• Drink 2-3 quarts of fluid a day, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

When Should I
Call the
Doctor?

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room if you have signs of a severe allergic reaction: Swelling/tingling in your face, mouth, tongue, or throat; chest tightness; trouble breathing; shortness of breath; dizziness; or palpitations (irregular or pounding heartbeat); hives

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any sign of infection: fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation
- blurry vision
- peeling or blistering skin

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have :

- nausea and vomiting not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- extreme fatigue that interferes with normal activities or dizziness

What Else
Should I Know
About
Amifostine?

- The most common side effect of amifostine is low blood pressure (hypotension), which may start while the drug is being given and lasts about 6 minutes. You will be told to lie on your back and your blood pressure will be checked regularly during your treatment. Your doctor may order IV fluids to help improve your blood pressure.
- This drug may have harmful effects on an unborn child. Use an effective form of birth control if you or your partner is taking amifostine. Barrier methods, such as condoms, are recommended.
- You will likely be given medication before and during your amifostine infusion to help prevent/lessen nausea.
- Keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory.
- Drink plenty of fluids during the 24 hours before receiving this medicine.
- If you would like more information about amifostine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.