

Cyclosporine

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for graft-versus-host disease (GVHD).
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Cyclosporine (SYE-kloe-spor-een): Gengraf (GEN-graf), Neoral (Nee-o-uruhl), Sandimmune (Sand-ih-myoon)	Prevents donor immune cells (T-cells) from attacking your body.	• Capsule(s) taken by mouth • Oral solution mixed with juice or milk and taken by mouth • Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion)

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your cyclosporine dosing instructions:

- Cyclosporine comes in 3 capsule strengths: 25 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg; and 1 oral solution strength: 100 mg/mL. Cyclosporine is available in its original form (Sandimmune) or modified forms (Gengraf or Neoral), so it can be better absorbed in the body. Your care team will tell you which form (brand) and how much to take and may change your dose if needed. Do not switch between brands unless your care team tells you to. If you receive a refill that looks different or has a different brand name, contact your care team before taking it.
- Your dose is based on many factors, including your height and weight, overall health, and diagnosis. Your dose may also be changed to keep the cyclosporine level in your blood within a specific range, which will be determined by your care team.
- Take with or without food. Take cyclosporine capsules the same way every day. For example, if you choose to take cyclosporine capsules with food, you should always take cyclosporine capsules with food.

Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

- Cyclosporine is usually taken 2 times a day around the same times each day, about 12 hours apart. Taking cyclosporine capsules at the same time each day helps to keep the amount of medicine in your body at a steady level.
- Swallow cyclosporine capsules whole. Do not chew, open, or crush the capsule.
- If you are also taking sirolimus, take it 4 hours after taking this drug.
- For all oral solutions: Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. Do not rinse the syringe that comes with this drug before or after you take your dose. If you need to wash it, be sure it is completely dry before you use it again.
- For Gengraf or Neoral oral solution: Mix solution in glass (do not use plastic) with orange or apple juice (not grapefruit juice) at room temperature and drink it right away. Rinse glass with more liquid and drink.
- For Sandimmune oral solution: Mix solution in glass (do not use plastic) with 1 cup of milk, chocolate milk, or orange juice (not grapefruit juice) at room temperature and drink it right away. Rinse glass with more juice or milk and drink.
- If you take too much cyclosporine, call your care team right away.

Storage and Handling of Cyclosporine

- Store cyclosporine at room temperature between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C).
- Do not store cyclosporine oral solution in the refrigerator. Once opened, the contents must be used within 2 months.
- Keep cyclosporine and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused cyclosporine.

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, treatment appointments, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss an appointment, call your care team as soon as possible to reschedule it.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help lower the risk of infections		
Other		

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Infections (Boxed Warning)	Description: Treatment may increase your chance of getting an infection. Recommendations: - Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. - Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick. - Keep any catheter/port site clean and dry. Follow all instructions provided by your care team. Talk to your care team if you have: - Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher - Chills - New or worsening cough or sore throat - Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection - Feeling much more tired than usual - Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)
High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)	Description: High blood pressure means the force of blood against your artery walls is too high. Treatment can raise your blood pressure or make it harder to control. Recommendations: - Exercise regularly, control your weight, and limit alcohol and salt (sodium). - Take blood pressure medicines as prescribed. Your care team may change your medicines if needed. - Your care team may ask you to check and record your blood pressure at home. Bring readings to appointments. - Follow diet and lifestyle advice from your care team Talk to your care team if you have: - Severe or new headaches - Dizziness or lightheadedness - Blurred vision - Trouble breathing - Nosebleeds that do not stop - A pounding sensation in your chest, neck, or ears - Irregular or fast heartbeats - Chest pain or pressure
Kidney Problems	Description: Treatment can cause kidney problems, including damage to the kidneys and decreased kidney function. Your care team will monitor your kidney function during treatment. Recommendations: - Drink 8 to 10 glasses (about 64 fluid ounces) of water each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise. - Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: - Decrease in your amount of urine - Blood in your urine - Swelling of your ankles - Loss of appetite

Tremor	Description: Tremor is shaking or trembling that you cannot control. It most often affects the hands but can also affect other parts of the body. Tremors may make it harder to do everyday activities, such as writing, eating, or holding objects. Recommendations: • Keep a diary of when your tremor happens and what makes it better or worse. • Avoid caffeine or other stimulants if they make your tremor worse. • Use caution with activities that require steady hand movements. Talk to your care team if you have: • New or worsening shaking or trembling • Tremors that make it difficult to eat, write, dress, or perform daily activities • Tremors that affect your balance or walking • Tremors along with weakness, dizziness, confusion, or severe headaches
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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Risk of New Cancers (Boxed Warning)	There is an increased risk of developing new cancers like lymphoma or skin cancer. Talk with your care team about this risk, and ask about the signs and symptoms of new cancers.
Thrombotic Microangiopathy (TMA)	TMA is a condition involving blood clots and injury to small blood vessels that may cause harm to your kidneys, brain, and other organs. Get medical help right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms during treatment: • Confusion • Weakness • Swelling of arms and legs • Yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes (jaundice) • Stomach-area (abdominal) or back pain • Nausea or vomiting • Feeling sick • Decreased urination
Overgrowth of Gums (Gingival Hyperplasia)	Cyclosporine may cause the gums around your teeth to overgrow. This may occur within a month or later in treatment and may be reversible upon stopping cyclosporine. • New growths in your gum tissue • Take calcium channel blockers or phenytoin • Have recently had a high cyclosporine level • New gum swelling or bleeding • New difficulties with chewing or speech
Liver Problems	• Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice) • Severe nausea or vomiting • Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen) • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)	A neurologic condition called PRES can happen during treatment with cyclosporine. • Severe headache • Confusion • Weakness • Seizures • Blindness or change in vision

Low Magnesium Levels in Your Blood (Hypomagnesemia)	Treatment may cause low levels of magnesium in your blood. Your care team will perform blood tests to check for these changes and will treat you if needed. • Extreme fatigue • Irregular heartbeat or chest pain • Muscle spasm, twitches, tremors, or cramps • Numbness or tingling in your fingers or toes • Nausea, vomiting, or loss of appetite • Seizures
High Potassium Levels in Your Blood (Hyperkalemia)	Treatment may cause high levels of potassium in your blood. Your care team will perform blood tests to check for these changes and will treat you if needed. • New or worsening muscle weakness or numbness • Fast, slow, irregular, or pounding heartbeats • Severe dizziness, fainting, or near-fainting • Shortness of breath or chest pain

Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.

Intimacy, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body**. However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Cyclosporine requires careful consideration in pregnancy due to potential risks such as preterm birth and low birth weight. Discuss with your care team if you plan to become pregnant, think you might be pregnant, or if you become pregnant.
- **Do not breastfeed** during treatment with cyclosporine.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **You should not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit during treatment with cyclosporine.** Grapefruit may increase the amount of cyclosporine in your blood.
- **You should not receive a “live vaccine”** before, during, or after treatment, until your care team tells you it is okay. If you are not sure about the type of immunization or vaccine, ask your care team. These vaccines may not be safe or may not work as well during treatment.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Notes

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Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.



Important Notice:

The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated to gather information and develop this patient education guide. This guide is a summary of the medication, based on information provided by the drug manufacturer and other sources.

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