

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using VEPESID?

VEPESID contains the active ingredient etoposide. VEPESID is used to treat certain types of lung cancer, leukaemia (blood cancer), lymphoma (cancer of the lymph glands), and testicular tumours.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using VEPESID?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use VEPESID?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to etoposide or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use VEPESID?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with VEPESID and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use VEPESID?

- VEPESID capsules may be given to you at the hospital or surgery, or you may take them yourself at home
- You should take VEPESID capsules on an empty stomach
- VEPESID is usually given each day for between 3 and 5 days. This is followed by a treatment-free interval of 2-4 weeks

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use VEPESID?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using VEPESID?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be sure to keep all your doctor's appointments so your progress can be checked• Remind any doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist you visit that you are using VEPESID
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop using this medicine or change the dosage without checking with your doctor
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VEPESID may cause dizziness, light-headedness, tiredness, changes in vision or vomiting in some people. If this occurs do not drive.• Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how VEPESID affects you
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Store VEPESID below 25°C, in a dark place, protected from light, where children cannot reach it

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using VEPESID?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

If you get any of the following side effects, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital: chills, fever, fast heart beat, wheezing or coughing, difficulty breathing, dizziness, flushing, sweating and swelling of the face, tongue or other parts of the body.

Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of the following: itching of the skin, joint aches, blisters that look like hives on the upper body, legs, arms, palms, hands, or feet and may involve the face or lips. Sore mouth, eye pain, vision problems. Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, nose bleeds, rash of small reddish-purple spots on your skin), blood in your stool or urine. Tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale. Numbness, tingling and pain in hands or feet. Pain in lungs, shortness of breath or change in breathing, cough, unusual tiredness. Heart problems (e.g. fast heartbeat). Seizures. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, loss of appetite with yellowing of the skin and eyes, bleeding, fatigue, weakness, confusion. Passing little or no urine.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

VEPESID®

Active ingredient: *etoposide*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet answers some common questions about VEPESID. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using VEPESID.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using VEPESID?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use VEPESID?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use VEPESID?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using VEPESID?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using VEPESID?

VEPESID contains the active ingredient **etoposide**, an anti-cancer medicine. It interferes with the development of cells and causes cell death, particularly in cancer cells.

VEPESID is used to treat certain types of lung cancer, leukaemia (blood cancer), lymphoma (cancer of the lymph glands), and testicular tumours.

VEPESID may be used alone or in combination with other medicines to treat cancer. Your doctor will inform you if this is necessary.

2. What should I know before I use VEPESID?

Warnings

Do not use VEPESID if:

- You are allergic to etoposide or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine

Check with your doctor if you:

- have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**
 - Liver or kidney problems
 - Any condition which reduces your blood cell "counts" such as white cells (leukopenia), neutrophils (neutropenia) or platelets (thrombocytopenia).
- take any medicines for any other condition

- have an infection or high temperature.** Your doctor may decide to delay your treatment until the infection has gone.
- are receiving radiation therapy for treatment of cancer.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Like most medicines used to treat cancer, VEPESID is not recommended for use during pregnancy, unless you and your doctor have discussed the risks and benefits involved.

You should use birth control while you are taking VEPESID and for at least 6 months after you stop using it.

VEPESID may cause birth defects if either the male or female is using it at the time of conception.

Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed while taking VEPESID, unless you have discussed it with your doctor.

It is not known whether VEPESID passes into breast milk. Therefore, there is a possibility that the breast-fed baby may be affected.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and VEPESID may interfere with each other. These include:

- some other medicines or treatments that are used to treat other forms of cancer such as doxorubicin, epirubicin, daunorubicin, cisplatin and corticosteroids such as prednisone, prednisolone, and dexamethasone.
- ciclosporin, a medicine used to prevent rejection of transplanted organs
- medicines used to treat epilepsy, including phenytoin
- warfarin, a medicine used to reduce blood clotting
- live viral vaccines
- some medicines for pain including phenylbutazone and aspirin

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect VEPESID.

4. How do I use VEPESID?

How much to take

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. Your dose of VEPESID capsules is worked out based on your body weight and height, the type of cancer you have and other medicines you are taking. Your dose may be different to the dose for another patient.

VEPESID may be given alone or in combination with other anti-cancer drugs.

Ask your doctor if you want to know more about the dose of VEPESID you receive.

How to take VEPESID

- VEPESID capsules may be given to you at the hospital or outpatient clinic, or you may take them yourself at home
- You should take VEPESID on an empty stomach

How long it is given

- VEPESID is usually given each day for 5 days or on days 1, 3 and 5. This is followed by a treatment-free interval of 3-4 weeks depending on the results of blood tests. This is called one cycle of chemotherapy. Your doctor will decide how many of these cycles you will need.
- VEPESID may be given at the same time as other anti-cancer agents or may be given alone.

If you forget to use VEPESID

If you are taking VEPESID capsules at home and you forget to take a dose - **if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.**

Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

If you use too much VEPESID

If you think that you have used too much VEPESID, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling New Zealand 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of overdose may include collapse, kidney failure, liver failure, failure of the immune system, and damage to the lining of the mouth and oesophagus.

5. What should I know while using VEPESID?

Things you should do

Be sure to keep all your doctor's appointments and follow up appointments so your progress can be checked.

Because VEPESID destroys blood cells, regular blood tests will be taken during treatment to check your blood cell counts. Remind any doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist you visit that you are using VEPESID.

Things you should not do

- do not stop taking VEPESID, or change the dose, without checking with your doctor

Risk of infection and bleeding

VEPESID can lower the number of white blood cells and platelets in your blood. This means that you have an increased chance of getting an infection or bleeding.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines until you know how VEPESID affects you.

As with other medicines used to treat cancer, VEPESID may cause dizziness, light-headedness, tiredness, changes of vision, or vomiting in some people.

Looking after your medicine

Store VEPESID:

- below 25°C
- in a dark place, protected from light

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly. Store it in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<p>Gut and digestion-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nausea vomiting diarrhoea stomach pain or discomfort constipation <p>Skin and hair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unusual hair loss or thinning rash, itchy or discoloured skin <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of appetite, aftertaste sore mouth, problems swallowing dizziness feeling tired or weak 	<p>Tell your doctor or nurse if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</p>

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>Signs of unusual bleeding such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bleeding or bruising more easily than normal nose bleeds rash of small reddish-purple spots on your skin blood in your stool or urine <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> painful blisters and fever, including extensive detachment of the skin vision problems (e.g., temporary blindness) tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale numbness, tingling and pain in hands or feet pain in lungs, shortness of breath or change in breathing, cough, unusual tiredness heart problems (e.g., fast heartbeat, heart attack) seizures yellowing of the skin and eyes (damage to the liver) passing little or no urine 	<p>Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p>
<p>Signs of an allergic reaction such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> chills fever fast heartbeat wheezing or coughing difficulty breathing dizziness flushing, sweating and swelling of the face, tongue or other parts of the body. 	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of</p>

<p>Signs of infections such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fever or chills 	<p>these serious side effects.</p>
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Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to <https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/consumer-reporting/>. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What VEPESID capsule contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	etoposide
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	citric acid glycerol macrogol 400 gelatin parabens titanium dioxide iron oxide pigment
Potential allergens	contains hydroxybenzoates

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What VEPESID looks like

VEPESID CAPSULES are pink oblong capsules, in either 50mg or 100mg strengths.

VEPESID 50mg capsules are supplied in blister packs of either 10 or 20 capsules.

VEPESID 100mg capsules are supplied in blister packs of 10 capsules.

Who distributes VEPESID

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This leaflet was prepared in March 2024.