



CHOP

Expert review and update by:
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation's Writers Bureau

WHAT IS CHOP?

CHOP is an abbreviation for a chemotherapy combination that is used to treat non-Hodgkin lymphoma. It includes the drugs cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan®), doxorubicin (Adriamycin®), vincristine sulfate (Oncovin®), and prednisone.

HOW IS IT DELIVERED?

CHOP is given intravenously (except for prednisone, which is an oral steroid).

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED RESULT?

CHOP is not often given in cutaneous lymphomas, but for certain patients it might be given. When given, the goal is to reduce lymphoma.

ARE THERE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS TO BE AWARE OF?

CHOP is combination chemotherapy.

WHAT ARE COMMON SIDE EFFECTS?

The following is not an exhaustive list of the possible side effects. For a complete list of possible side effects, please see the manufacturer's available information on the specific therapy.

Mild nausea or vomiting can occur, and bladder irritation in the form of burning on urination or blood in the urine can occur while taking the medication. A temporary decrease in blood cell counts can occur. In women, menstrual periods can become irregular or stop, and fertility may be decreased. In men, sperm production and fertility may be reduced. Temporary thinning or loss of hair is possible. With chronic use of cyclophosphamide, bone marrow damage may occur, which may lead to the development of acute leukemia. Bladder cancer has also been reported in patients who have taken the drug for prolonged periods of time (daily for years).