

## CTD and Peripheral neuropathy

Table 1. Side effects of Cyclophosphamide (Dougherty, McWhirter and Jones, 2014, p. 60).

CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE		
IMMEDIATE	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM
Nasal stuffiness	- Leucopenia (usually resolves within 21 days) - Nausea and vomiting	- Myelosuppression - Haemorrhagic Cystitis - Alopecia (with high doses)
	- Anorexia - Haematuria	- Amenorrhoea, testicular atrophy - Sterility (most cases reversible) - Skin pigmentation - Hepatic toxicity - Alterate carbohydrate metabolism - Hyper/hypo-glycaemia - Pancreatitis

Table 2. Side effects of Thalidomide (Dougherty, McWhirter and Jones, 2014, p. 134).

THALIDOMIDE		
IMMEDIATE	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM
Unknown	- Constipation - Vomiting - Dry mouth - Dyspnoea	- Peripheral neuropathy - Somnolence - Fatigue - Peripheral oedema - Confusion - Depression - DVT, pulmonary embolism - ILD, cardiac disorders - Severe rash

Table 3. Side effects of Dexamethasone (Cancer Research UK, 2015).

Side effects of Dexamethasone	
Common	- Indigestion or heartburn. - Increased appetite and weight gain. - Swollen hands, feet or ankles from water retention.
	- Increased risk of infection. - Changes in blood sugar with high dose or long term treatment. - Changes in mood and behaviour. - Difficulty sleeping.
Rare	- Cataracts or glaucoma. - Cushings syndrome. - Muscle wasting. - Osteoporosis. - Raised blood pressure.

**Table 4. Grades refer to the severity of adverse events (CTCAE, 2009).**

Grade 1	Mild; asymptomatic or mild symptoms; clinical or diagnostic observations only; intervention not indicated
Grade 2	Moderate; minimal, local or non-invasive intervention indicated; limiting age-appropriate instrumental ADL*.
Grade 3	Severe or medically significant but not immediately life-threatening; hospitalization or prolongation of hospitalization indicated; disabling; limiting self care ADL**.
Grade 4	Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated.
Grade 5	Death related to AE.

**Table 5. Nursing interventions for peripheral neuropathy.**

<b>Table 5. Nursing Management</b>		
Side effect	Prevalence	Interventions
Peripheral neuropathy	Mild: 85% Severe: 3%-5%	- Assess patients for signs and symptoms of tingling in the distal extremities (finger and toes). - Teach patients to protect extremities from extreme in temperatures. - Assess gait. - B vitamin and amino acid supplements. - Dose reduction if necessary. - Nerve conduction studies may be indicated. - Prescription medication if recommended.