French Hospital Medical Center.
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, please consult your physician or call Hearst Cancer Resource Center at 805.542.6234. For emergency, call 911.

PATIENT EDUCATION

Adramycin (Doxorubicin)

SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- **Lowered Blood Counts –** This is temporary and usually occurs 10-14 days after treatment. During this time you are more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding. Blood test may be done to monitor your bleed counts.
- **Nausea and Vomiting –** This may last 24 hours. Medication will be given to help control/prevent this. It is recommended that anti-nausea medication be taken for at least 24 hours after your treatment.
- **Pink, Red, or Orange Colored Urine –** is dose related. Your doctor may check your cardiac function prior to your first treatment.
- **Sores in the Mouth –** may or may not occur. It is important to maintain good mouth care. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush. May occur 7-10 days after treatment.
- **Fever –** May occur in the first 24-48 hours after receiving the drug.
- **Temporary Skin Redness** at the treatment site**. Hives** may develop during infusion.
- **Fatigue –** May include general physical and mental fatigue (difficulty concentrating)

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Redness, pain, or swelling at the injection site
- Uncontrolled nausea and vomiting; inability to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen, white patches in your mouth or on your tongue
- Blood in bowel movements or urine, unusual bruising or nosebleeds
- Chest pain, shortness of breath, swelling of your legs/ankles, fast or irregular heartbeat

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures –** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Leakage of this drug outside the vein can cause pain and skin damage similar to a serious burn. Tell your nurse/doctor IMMEDIATELY if you have any pain at the injections site.**
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**