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

Idarubicin (Idamycin)

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 tests may be done to monitor your blood counts.
- **Nausea and Vomiting** – Common. Medication will be given to help control/prevent this. Cans last for up to 24 hours after treatment.
- **Pink, Red, or Orange Colored Urine** – for 1-2 days after the drug is given.
- **Reversible Hair Loss** – Almost complete loss of body hair. This is a temporary side effect. New growth resumes 2-3 months after your last treatment.
- **Heart Rhythm Abnormalities and Heart Failure** – 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 a few days after treatment.
- **Fatigue** – may include general physical and mental fatigue (difficult concentrating).
- **Diarrhea/Abdominal Cramping** – Occurs about ¾ of the time. As your doctor for mediation to help if this is a problem.
- **Discoloration of Nail Beds**

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
- Sores in your mouth
- Uncontrolled diarrhea

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 injection site.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**