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

5-FU (Adrucil, Efudex, 5-Fluorouricil)

SIDE EFFECTS

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

- **Sore Mouth –** This may occur 5-8 days after receiving this drug. Your mouth may become red and sore or white ulcers may appear on your lips, tongue, or inside of your mouth.
- **Diarrhea –** You may experience an increase in the number of stools you have per day, as well as your stools becoming more loose and/or watery. Medication can be order to help control this. Normally you do not have cramping with this diarrhea.
- **Nausea/Vomiting –** Medication will be given to you to help control or prevent this.
- **Lowered Blood Counts –** This is temporary and usually occurs 7-14 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.
- **Skin Changes –** You may notice a darkening of the veins that are used for the injections. Your skin may also be more sensitive to the sun and you can sunburn easier. Your fingers, toes, palms of hands, and feet may also become red and peel. Be sure and apply sunscreen and wear protective clothing.
- **Hair Loss –** May occur and is reversible.
- **Eye Changes/Nasal Changes –** You may notice your eyes become red, irritated, and teary. You may also have an increase in nasal drainage. This will disappear when treatments are completed.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Uncontrolled nausea and vomiting; inability to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Uncontrolled diarrhea or more than 4 bowel movements per day that what is normal for you; cramping with diarrhea
- Headache, visual disturbances, unsteady gait
- Blood in stools or urine
- White ulcers or sores in the mouth or on the tongue
- 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

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures –** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**