



NYUCancerInstitute

P A T I E N T I N F O R M A T I O N

The side effects listed below are those that occur most frequently. Other side effects may occur; please contact your doctor or oncology nurse to report any medical problems.

Dose _____

DOXORUBICIN (Adriamycin®)

Early Side Effects

- a. Moderate nausea and vomiting; appetite loss and mouth ulcers may occur.
- b. Leakage of the drug outside the vein may cause pain or skin damage. If there is any pain, redness or tenderness in the area of infusion, contact your doctor or nurse immediately.
- c. The drug may turn the urine pink/orange or red in color for 24 hours after the drug is administered.

Late Side Effects

- a. A drop in blood cell count occurs within 7 - 10 days of treatment.
- b. Mouth ulcers/tenderness may occur within 1 - 4 days of treatment. Mouth care is very important. Your nurse can advise you regarding a mouth care regimen.
- c. 2 - 3 weeks after treatment hair loss may occur; this loss is temporary and hair will grow back after the drug has been discontinued.
- d. A high cumulative dose of the drug can affect the heart muscle and produce changes in the heart rate and rhythm. (A dose for you has been determined and will not exceed the maximum safe dose). This way the maximum safe dose can be even higher. If your doctor thinks you need to receive high doses of Adriamycin® he may monitor your heart function with special tests after you have received a significant amount of the drug and before giving more Adriamycin®
- e. Nail changes including white streaks and in some cases a loosening of the nails may occur.
- f. Photosensitivity: Use sunscreen lotion (SPF20 or higher) to protect yourself. Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun.