



Doxorubicin (Adriamycin®)

Generic Name: doxorubicin

Drug Name: Adriamycin®

Purpose: Doxorubicin is a chemotherapy drug used to treat certain types of cancer. It interferes with cell reproduction and growth to prevent the cancer from growing or spreading.

How drug is given:

- Intravenous (IV) into a vein by a specially trained nurse at the hospital or Cancer Center.

Possible Side Effects:

- Moderate nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite.
 - May last between 24 and 48 hours after treatment.
 - Medications are available to help prevent or control the nausea.
- Pain or skin damage if the drug leaks from the vein. Call your healthcare provider immediately if you have any pain, redness or tenderness at the infusion site.
- Pink, orange or red urine for up to 24 hours after treatment because doxorubicin is a red colored drug.
- Mouth sores may occur within 7 days after treatment. Medications are available to help with any discomfort. If you have mouth sores:
 - do not use any products that contain alcohol including mouthwash
 - use a soft toothbrush
 - do not drink alcohol
 - do not eat spicy or acidic foods
- Your skin will be more sensitive to sun and more likely to burn. Avoid direct sunlight and DO NOT use tanning beds. Use sunblock with an SPF of 30 or higher. Wear clothes that protect you from the sun including long pants, long sleeves, a hat and sunglasses.
- Low white blood cell count. Call your healthcare provider if you have:
 - fever
 - new cough
- Low red blood cell count. Call your healthcare provider if you feel:
 - dizzy
 - short of breath
 - very tired
- Low platelet count. Call your healthcare provider if you have:
 - bleeding
 - new bruises
 - tiny red spots on skin



- Temporary hair loss starting approximately 2 weeks after first treatment. Your hair will grow back.
- Skin changes:
 - Darkening of the skin where you have had radiation treatments in the past. Tell your healthcare provider if you have ever had radiation treatments.
 - White streaks on, darkening or loosening of your nails
- Changes in heart rate and heart rhythm
 - not a common side effect
 - may happen after you have received large amounts of doxorubicin
 - your doctor will monitor your heart function with special tests
 - call your doctor or nurse immediately if you have:
 - difficulty breathing
 - weight gain
 - swelling in your hands or feet
 - a cough

Important:

1. Talk about contraception (birth control) and/or family planning with your healthcare provider while taking doxorubicin.
2. Tell your healthcare provider if you have been treated with doxorubicin in the past.
3. **DO NOT** breast feed while taking doxorubicin. Doxorubicin is passed to the baby in breast milk.