



Fluorouracil (Adrucil®)

Generic Name: fluorouracil or 5-FU

Drug Name: 5-FU, Adrucil®

Purpose: Fluorouracil 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/or loss of appetite. Medications are available to help prevent or control the nausea.
- 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
- Mouth sores may occur within 2 to 10 days after treatment. Medications are available to help with any discomfort. If you have mouth sores:
 - use a soft toothbrush
 - DO NOT use any products that contain alcohol including mouthwash
 - DO NOT drink alcohol
 - DO NOT eat spicy or acidic foods
- Diarrhea may occur. Medications are available to help prevent or control the diarrhea.
- 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.



- Skin reactions:
 - Darkening of the skin on hands or face
 - Darkening of veins at infusion site
 - Darkening or splitting of nails

Important:

1. Talk about contraception (birth control) and/or family planning with your healthcare provider while taking fluorouracil.
2. DO NOT breastfeed while taking fluorouracil.
3. Fluorouracil can interact with aspirin or medicines containing aspirin, warfarin (Coumadin[®]), tamoxifen (Nolvadex[®]), and certain types of vaccines (including flu shots). Talk to your healthcare provider if you are taking these medications.