



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 _____

FLUOROURACIL (5-Fluorouracil)

Early Side Effects

- a. Moderate nausea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite may occur.
- b. You may experience a change in taste.

Late Side Effects

- a. A drop in blood cell counts usually occurs 7 to 21 days after treatment.
- b. Mouth sores may occur within 2 – 10 days of treatment. Avoid using commercial mouthwashes because they contain alcohol, which can cause irritation. Use a soft toothbrush to clean your teeth. Avoid alcohol and spicy or acidic foods, as they will increase the mouth pain. To relieve the discomfort, medications are available; contact your doctor or nurse.
- c. Diarrhea may occur. Medication to control diarrhea may be taken; contact your doctor. It is important to maintain adequate fluid intake to prevent dehydration.
- d. Photosensitivity. May experience sunburn/photosensitivity if the skin is exposed to the sun. Use a sunscreen (SPF20) or higher, avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight and wear protective clothing.
- e. Hyper pigmentation on hands or face.
- f. Nail changes – darkening and splitting.