

Idarubicin (Idamycin®)

Idarubicin is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

How Is It Given?

- red liquid by IV (intravenous)

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- lowered white blood cell and platelet counts (occurs one to two weeks after treatment)
- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- loss of appetite
- mouth sores
- diarrhea or stomach cramps
- headache
- some hair loss (begins about three weeks after starting treatment)
- red urine for one to two days after treatment

Less common:

- skin rash or hives
- ulcers or severe reaction at the IV site
- darkening or redness of your skin
- sensitivity to sunlight
- numb or tingling fingers, toes or face
- lower red blood cell counts

Special Notes

- Tell your nurse right away if you have any stinging or burning at the IV.
- Heart damage may occur with high doses of this medicine, especially after receiving several cycles. Your doctor may schedule tests to see how your heart handles the high doses.
- You may have changes in your menstrual cycle or sperm count. Discuss birth control measures with your doctor. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine.

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- fever, chills, or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- rash or hives
- trouble breathing
- irregular heartbeat
- swollen feet or ankles
- stomach pain
- blood in your stool or urine
- nausea or vomiting you cannot control
- mouth sores.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.

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