

Doxorubicin (Adriamycin®)

Doxorubicin is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat many types of cancer.

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:

- nausea (upset stomach) or vomiting (throwing up) (1 to 3 hours after receiving treatment)
- loss of appetite
- hair loss
- red urine for 1 to 2 days after treatment
- mouth sores
- lowered white blood cell and platelet counts (10 to 14 days after the treatment)

Less common:

- red skin at the IV site
- heart muscle damage
- skin rash
- allergic reaction
- irritation and tearing of your eyes
- skin damage or severe reaction at the IV site
- darkening of your fingernails, toenails or both

Special Notes

- Tell your nurse right away if you have any stinging or burning at the IV site.
- You may have heart damage with high doses of this medicine, especially after receiving several cycles. You will not get more of your total dose than your doctor has determined. Your doctor may want to take tests to check your heart.
- Some medicines interact with doxorubicin. Let your doctor know if you are taking digoxin (Lanoxin®) or barbiturates such as phenobarbital.
- 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:

- shortness of breath
- swollen ankles or feet
- irregular heart beat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- mouth sores
- nausea or vomiting you cannot control
- pain or redness at the IV site.

For more complete drug information or for questions about this medicine, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

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