Daunorubicin

- **Daunorubicin** (dawn-oh-ROO-biss-in) is a drug that is used to treat many kinds of cancer. It is a clear red liquid that is injected into a vein.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Your doctor may tell you to **drink** lots of liquids (8-12 cups a day). This helps prevent kidney problems in some kinds of cancer.
- Some drugs, herbal products and supplements may **interact** with your treatment. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of these or before you start taking any new drugs.
- Daunorubicin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with daunorubicin. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists or other health care providers that you are being treated with this medication before you receive any other treatment from them.

Changes in blood counts

This drug may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

BLOOD EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. **When they are low, you are at greater risk of getting an infection.**	**To help prevent infection:** • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Visit the Urgent Care Unit at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) **immediately** at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). **When the platelet count is low you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.**	To help prevent bleeding problems: • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. • Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene. Some medications such as aspirin, ibuprofen or other pain medications may increase your risk of bleeding. • For minor pain, try paracetamol (Panadol®) • Refer to your doctor if any of these medications have been prescribed to you.

Side effects that may occur and tips for management

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Daunorubicin **burns** if it leaks under the skin.	Tell your nurse or doctor **immediately** if you feel burning, stinging or any other change while the drug is being given.
Your **urine may be pink or reddish** for 1-2 days after your treatment.	This is expected as daunorubicin is red and is passed in your urine.
Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment and may last for up to 48 hours.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. **It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred,** so follow directions closely. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts.
Hair loss is common and may begin within a few days or weeks of treatment. Your hair may become thinner or you may become totally bald. Your scalp may feel tender. You may also lose hair on your face and body. Your hair will grow back once your treatments are over and sometimes between treatments.	• Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Care should be taken with use of hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms. • Protect your scalp with a hat, scarf or wig in cold weather. • Cover your head or apply sunblock on sunny days. • Apply mineral oil to your scalp to reduce itching. • If you lose your eyelashes and eyebrows, protect your eyes from dust and grit with a broad-rimmed hat and glasses.
Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
Your **skin may darken** in some areas such as your hands, elbows and knees.	This will slowly return to normal once you stop treatment with daunorubicin.

Patient education leaflet
Adapted from BC Cancer Drug Manual - CANADA(Developed: September 2003, Limited revision: 20 February 2007)
Prepared by Clinical Pharmacy Department at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research - Version 1 on May 2017

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer); chills; cough; sore throat; pain or burning when you pass urine; redness, pain or swelling of any area of your body; sores forming anywhere on your body.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin, extensive bruising.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Severe **skin reaction** where you have had radiation.
- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- **Numbness or tingling** in feet or hands.
- Signs of **gout** such as joint pain.
- **Skin rash or itching.**

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Easy bruising or bleeding.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR

This is a summary of useful information to help you understand and take your medicine safely .

We are available to answer your questions For urgent inquiries contact :

- **Urgent care unit at the National Center of Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) TEL : 44397179 (available 24 hours, all week days).**

For further information or question contact :

- **Your doctor** (from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Clinical Pharmacy section,** TEL: 44397239 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Outpatient Pharmacy**, TEL: 44397531, 44397825 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .

Pharmacy Department

18-0243