Doxorubicin, pegylated liposomal

- **Pegylated liposomal doxorubicin** (PLD) is a drug that is used to treat many types of cancers. It is a red liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to other chemotherapy drugs such as doxorubicin, daunorubicin, epirubicin, mitomycin or mitoxantrone before treatment begins.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Pegylated liposomal doxorubicin** (PLD) may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with PLD.
- PLD may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with PLD. 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.

Side effects that may occur and tips for management

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Infusion reactions occur rarely. Early signs of an infusion reaction are shortness of breath, dizziness and sweating. This can occur immediately after you begin to receive the drug and usually only with the first dose.	Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving PEGylated doxorubicin or visit The National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) Urgent Care Unit **immediately** if this happens after you leave the day care unit. • Your PLD may be given more slowly. • You may be given other drugs to treat the reaction.
PLD may **irritate** the vein.	• Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if there is any discomfort while the drug is being given.
Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea drugs 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 liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Tell your doctor if you experience continues nausea and vomiting.
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.
Hand-foot skin reaction may occur during treatment. The palms of your hands and soles of your feet may tingle, become red, numb, painful, or swollen. Skin may also become dry or itchy. You may not be able to do your normal daily activities if blisters, severe pain or ulcers occur.	• Avoid tight-fitting shoes or rubbing pressure to hands and feet, such as that caused by heavy activity. • Avoid tight-fitting jewelry. • Clean hands and feet with lukewarm water and gently pat to dry; avoid hot water. • Apply sun screen cream with an (SPF) of 30 of above. • Apply lanolin-containing creams to hands and feet, liberally and often. • Tell your doctor or your nurse at the next visit if you have any signs of hand-foot skin reaction as your dose may need to be changed.
Skin rashes may occur.	To help itching: • You can use calamine lotion. • If very irritating, call your doctor during office hours. • Otherwise make sure to mention it at your next visit.
Diarrhea may occur.	To help diarrhea: • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fiber foods.
Constipation may occur.	• Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids (8 cups a day).
Your **white blood cells** may decrease 10- 14 days after your treatment. They usually return to normal 21-28 days after your last treatment. White blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection**. When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.**	• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Take care of your skin and mouth. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Visit The National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) Urgent Care Unit 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.
Your **platelets** may decrease 10-14 days after your treatment. They usually return to normal 21-28 days after your last treatment. Platelets help to make your blood clot when you hurt yourself. **You may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.**	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 has been prescribed to you.

Patient education leaflet
Adapted from British Colombia Cancer Drug Manual -CANADA (Developed: January 2006, Limited revision: 20 February 2006)
Prepared by Clinical Pharmacy Department at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research - Version 1 on May 2017

Sore mouth may occur a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat. **Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.**	• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste. • Make a mouthwash with ½ teaspoon baking soda or salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day. • Try soft, bland foods like puddings, milkshakes and cream soups. • Avoid spicy, crunchy or acidic food, and very hot or cold foods.
Muscle or joint pain may occur a few days after your treatment	• Take paracetamol (Panadol ®) • Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
Swelling of hands, feet or lower legs may occur if your body retains extra fluid.	If swelling is a problem: • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
Tiredness and lack of energy may occur.	• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.
Hair loss is rare with PLD. Your hair will grow back once you stop treatment with PLD. Color and texture may change.	• Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Apply mineral oil to your scalp to reduce itching.
Loss of appetite and **weight loss** may occur.	

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

- Signs of **heart problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, swelling of ankles or fainting.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer); chills; cough; pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Signs of **bleeding** such as black tarry stools; blood in urine or stools; pinpoint red spots on skin, extensive bruising.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling or breathing problems.

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

- **Painful hand-foot skin reaction** such as painful redness, peeling, tingling, numbness, swelling or blistering of the palms of your hands and/or the bottoms of your feet.
- **Painful redness, swelling or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat**.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-colored stool.

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

- Painless hand-foot skin reaction such as redness, peeling, tingling, numbness, swelling or blistering of the palms of your hands and/or bottoms of your feet.
- Painless redness, swelling or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.
- Skin rash or itching.
- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.

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