

DOXOrubicin



- **DOXOrubicin** (dox-oh-ROO-biss-in) 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 doxorubicin, daunorubicin, epirubicin, idarubicin, 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.
- Doxorubicin may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with doxorubicin.
- Doxorubicin may damage sperm and may harm the fetus if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with doxorubicin. 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 |
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| 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
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| Doxorubicin 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 doxorubicin is red and is passed in your urine. |
| Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment and usually ends within 24 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink plenty of fluids. Eat and drink often in small amounts. Tell your doctor if you experience continued 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. |
| Diarrhea may occur . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink plenty of fluids. Eat and drink often in small amounts. Avoid high fiber foods |
| 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| 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 lose hair on your face and body. Your hair will grow back once your treatments are over and sometimes between treatments. Color and texture may change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. 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. Protect your scalp with a hat, scarf or wig in cold weather. Cover your head or apply sunblock on sunny days. |
| Your skin may darken in some areas such as your nails, soles or palms. | This will slowly return to normal once you stop treatment with doxorubicin. |
| Loss of appetite or Weight loss may occur and may persist long after discontinuation of doxorubicin. | |

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

- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, swelling of ankles, or fainting.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black tarry stools; blood in urine; 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:

- Severe (**skin reaction**) where you have had radiation
- Signs of (**gout**) such as joint pain
- (**Changes in eyesight**)
- (**Skin rash**) or (**itching**)

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

- Easy bruising or minor bleeding. Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- 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

18-0246