

Doxorubicin Liposomal

(dox-o-ROO-bih-sin lie-poe-SOAM-al)

Also Known As: Doxil®

How It Is Given: Intravenously (by vein); the color of the solution is red.

Early Side Effects (beginning within the first week) Can Include:

- Pain and irritation along the vein where the drug is given. This can last as long as the drug goes in.
- Itching, hives, or a red rash at the injection site and along the vein while the drug is being given. This subsides soon after the injection of the drug is completed.
- An allergic response with:
 - Flushing,
 - A feeling of tightness in the chest,
 - Chest or back pain,
 - Shortness of breath,
 - Fast heart rate,
 - A choking sensation,
 - A lowering of blood pressure.
- Mild nausea.
- Pink or red urine for as long as 48 hours after the treatment.

Late Side Effects (beginning after one week) Can Include:

- A temporary decrease in blood cell counts. This can occur two to three weeks after each treatment. White blood cells and platelets are mostly affected.
- Skin on your hands and feet may be sensitive and red. They might peel.
- Thinning or loss of hair (not common). Your hair will grow back when your treatment is done.
- Mouth sores within one to two weeks after you have received the drug.
- Damage to the heart muscle after a certain dose level is reached. Studies may be done to check heart function.
- Early menopause in females.

Special Points:

- This medicine can harm an unborn child. Ask your doctor or nurse about the type of birth control you should use. Tell your doctor immediately if you think you or your partner might be pregnant.
- Aspirin, NSAIDs (e.g., Motrin®, Aleve®), and vitamin E can add to bleeding problems. Do not take medicine that has them unless your doctor says it is okay. Your nurse will give you a fact card that tells you what drugs you cannot take and what you can use instead.
- Ask your doctor about fertility options before you begin treatment.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any other medicines or have changed medicines. Some may change the way this drug works. Include:
 - Medicines that do and do not require a prescription.
 - Herbal remedies.

- Vitamins.
- Dietary supplements.
- Perform mouth care as instructed by your doctor or nurse.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse If You:

- Have a fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.
- Have pain, redness, swelling, or blistering near the infusion site.
- Develop mouth sores.
- Have any sign of bleeding. This includes:
 - Black bowel movements.
 - Bruising.
 - Faint red rash.
 - Other signs of bleeding.
- Have any unexpected, unexplained problems.
- Have any questions or concerns.

The information on this card is selective and does not cover all possible side effects; others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor.

