

Fluorouracil

Also Known As: 5-FU, Adrucil®

How It Is Given:

Intravenously (by vein)

Early Side Effects (beginning within one week) Can Include:

- Mild nausea and vomiting.
- Diarrhea.
- Soreness in the mouth.

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

- A temporary decrease in the blood cells (white blood cells, red blood cells, platelets).
- Dryness and scaling of the nails, cuticles, and skin of the hands.
- Temporary thinning of the hair three to four weeks after each treatment.
- Nasal stuffiness and watering of the eyes three to four weeks after treatment.

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.
- This medicine can decrease your ability to have a child. It can affect both men and women. Discuss this with your doctor before you start treatment.
- Aspirin, NSAIDs (e.g., Motrin®, Aleve®), and vitamin E can cause 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.
- Protect your skin from the sun. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and a hat if possible. Use a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or greater when in the sun.
- 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.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse If You:

- Have a fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.
- Have more than three loose bowel movements a day over your normal bowel routine.
- Have any sign of bleeding. This includes:
 - Black bowel movements.
 - Bruising.
 - Faint red rash.
 - Other signs of bleeding.
- Develop mouth sores.
- Have any unexpected or unexplained problems.
- Have any question 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.

