

**Warning**

This fact sheet aims to let you know the side effects most commonly seen following the administration of your treatment. Please note that when you take any medication, there is a possibility that it causes rare side effects and it is difficult to predict which patients will be affected.

## ***General Information for Patients***

**Protocol** : Liposomal doxorubicin

Date: January 2004

Revision: November 2016

<b>MEDICATION</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
Liposomal doxorubicin	Intravenous infusion over 60 minutes (First infusion may last longer)
<b><i>Treatment repeated every 4 weeks</i></b>	

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## General Information associated with your treatment

- ❑ This medication is used to prevent the multiplication of abnormal cells and destroy them.
- ❑ A **blood test** will be done prior to every treatment cycle. Depending on the results and side effects of the previous treatment, the dose of medication might be adjusted or treatment might be delayed.
- ❑ **Alcohol** (in small quantities) is permitted and will not affect the efficacy of the treatments.
- ❑ Your **sense of taste may be altered**. Enhance foods with herbs or lemon juice. Eating fruits, chewing non-sugared gums, etc. may mask the metallic taste.
- ❑ Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- ❑ You may experience **fatigue** during your treatments. This is usually only temporary and may be related to different reasons (medication, stress, the disease). Maintain a good level of activity but rest when you feel the need to.
- ❑ You can have an **active sexual** life during your treatments. However, a decrease in your sexual drive may occur during this period. This may also be influenced by different factors (fatigue, stress etc.)
- ❑ In **pre-menopausal female patients**, chemotherapy may cause irregularities or cessation of the menstrual cycle during treatments. The menstrual cycle, after stopping chemotherapy, may restart or return to normal. It may also stop permanently. However, a pregnancy may be possible and a method of **contraception** is strongly recommended during treatments. Chemotherapy administered during pregnancy may harm the embryo. Breast-feeding is contra-indicated during treatment.
- ❑ Consult your doctor or pharmacist before you take other medications (even over the counter medications available without a prescription) or natural products. These may provoke an interaction with your treatment and diminish its efficacy or increase side effects.
- ❑ Follow the instructions given by your cancer center about the right way to handle and dispose of body fluids (for example urine, stools) in order to protect the environment and your relatives.
- ❑ Be sure to always have at hand the complete list of your medications, dietary supplements, vitamins and other natural health products. Give it to you doctor and your pharmacist. It is important to make them aware of any change.

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## Adverse Effects and Management

<b>ADVERSE EFFECTS</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT</b>
<p><b>Nausea</b>, usually light, may occur mainly on the same day and the day following your treatment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Before your treatment, medication to prevent nausea may be prescribed. After the treatment, at home, you will take medication as needed for 1 or 2 days, or more, depending on your reaction.</li><li>• Communicate with your doctor or pharmacist if you have nausea or vomiting that is not relieved by medication.</li></ul>
<p>Depending on the individual, <b>thinning of the hair</b> may occur. In general, this happens 2 to 3 weeks after the treatment. However, don't worry; your hair will grow back after treatments have ended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use gentle shampoo.</li><li>• Avoid brushing hair vigorously.</li><li>• Avoid hair sprays, dyes and perms.</li></ul>
<p>A decrease in the <b>white blood cells</b> will occur 2 to 3 weeks following treatment. You may be at higher risk to contact infections during this period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash your hands often</li><li>• During this period, avoid coming in contact with people who have contagious diseases.</li><li>• Quickly contact a member of your healthcare team if you notice any signs of infection (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, pain while urinating...)</li><li>• Consult your doctor or go immediately to the Emergency Room if you have a fever 38.3 °C (101°F) once or 38 °C (100.4 °F) twice an hour apart.</li><li>• In case of fever, do not take acetaminophen (ex.: Tylenol<sup>®</sup>, Atasol<sup>®</sup>) and anti-inflammatory medication (ex.: Motrin<sup>®</sup>, Advil<sup>®</sup>, Aleve<sup>®</sup>).</li></ul>

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<p><b>Hand and foot syndrome</b> may appear during your treatment. You may experience numbness, tingling, swelling, redness on your hands and/or feet. Pain, blisters, desquamation may accompany these symptoms.</p>	<p><b>To prevent this syndrome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoid wearing tight clothes or shoes. Wear absorbent sponge rubber soles, and/or gel pads to relieve pressure points.</li><li>• Pat dry your hands and feet rather than rubbing them.</li><li>• Wear light clothing or keep skin free of clothing to avoid perspiring.</li><li>• Wear rubber gloves while washing dishes</li><li>• Wash your hands and feet in lukewarm water; avoid hot water.</li><li>• Moisturize your skin regularly using a non-perfumed emollient and thick cream.</li><li>• Avoid activities that require applying pressure and repetitive friction on your hands and feet.</li></ul> <p><b>If symptoms occur:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If these symptoms occur and affect your daily activities, notify a member of your healthcare team as soon as possible. Your pharmacist or doctor will recommend appropriate treatment to relieve your symptoms.</li></ul>
<p><b>Mouth ulcers, redness, pain or swelling in your mouth</b> may appear following your treatment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brush your teeth regularly after each meal and at bedtime.</li><li>• Rinse your mouth with a solution of water and salt with or without baking soda. Gargle 4 times a day – after every meal and at bedtime. Do not drink or eat for one hour after you gargle.</li><li>• Mouthwashes without alcohol found in stores are a good alternative.</li><li>• If you notice ulcers, redness or painful areas in your mouth, contact a member of your healthcare team.</li></ul>

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<b>ADVERSE EFFECTS</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT</b>
You may experience <b>infusion-related reactions</b> with liposomal doxorubicin, especially during the first infusion. You may experience hot flashes, shortness of breath, headache, chills, back pain, chest or throat tightness, variation of blood pressure, swelling of the face. These symptoms are less likely to happen with subsequent infusions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Notify the nurse if these symptoms occur during the administration of the drug. Medication can be given to alleviate these symptoms</li></ul>

### Special Consideration

- Your **urine** may be a **reddish colour** the same day or the day following your treatment. This is normal and corresponds to the elimination of liposomal doxorubicin. Don't worry it is not blood.

Pharmacist: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_ h to \_\_\_\_ h (Monday to Friday)