How drug is given: By vein (intravenously, IV)

Purpose: This medication is used in the treatment of acute promyelocytic leukemia

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and you should report them to your doctor or nurse right away.

2. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may also help you maintain your energy.

3. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Your body may not be able to get rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms or legs.

2. If you have an ongoing fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, call your doctor or nurse right away. Make sure you are drinking plenty of fluids.

3. This drug may affect your heart. Your heart function will be followed with a weekly EKG. You may have a fast or unusual heartbeat. If you feel any strange changes in your heartbeat, tell your doctor or nurse right away. You should also let your doctor or nurse know if you are coughing, having trouble breathing, have chest pain and/or swelling in the feet or ankles.

4. Do not take over-the-counter medications or herbal supplements without first notifying your doctor or nurse. Tell your doctor or nurse if you start any new medications.

5. Skin changes such as dryness or a rash on your body may occur. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use.

6. Frequent blood work will be done to monitor electrolytes, such as potassium and magnesium.
Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

Fertility and Related Precautions:

- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Men may become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
- For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.
- Women should not breast-feed while receiving this drug.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: