Vincristine (Oncovin®)
(“vin KRIS teen”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: To treat leukemia, sarcoma, Wilm’s Tumor, Hodgkin lymphoma, neuroblastoma, brain tumors, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. If the drug leaks out of the vein into the tissue while it is being given, it can cause harm. This is called extravasation. If you feel any burning or tingling in the area of your IV, please tell your nurse right away.

   Swelling, redness, blisters or bruising around the area of the IV or port may occur one or two weeks after getting this drug. Call your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.

2. Some patients may have mild nausea. Your health care team may prescribe drugs to help you with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. You may lose some feeling, or have tingling or burning in your hands and/or feet. This is called peripheral neuropathy. This may increase with continued treatment. Please let your doctor or nurse know if you have trouble buttoning your clothes or have trouble walking. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time when the drug is stopped.

2. Jaw pain or stiffness may occur.

3. Constipation may occur after treatment begins. Be sure to drink more fluids and get more fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®), and/or laxatives, such as senna (Senakot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without first talking to your doctor or nurse.

4. You may have changes in your eyesight, including double vision.
5. You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. A soft-bristle toothbrush should be used for brushing your teeth. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use a baking soda mouth rinse 4 or 5 times a day.

**Mouth Rinse Recipe:**
Mix: 1 tsp salt or baking soda with 8 oz. glass of water

Other mouth rinses may be ordered by your doctor. Do not use mouth washes.

6. Some or all of your hair may fall out around 3 to 4 weeks after treatment starts. You may lose body hair, including facial hair, as well as hair on your head. You may want to buy a wig before hair loss begins. Hair may grow back during treatment.

7. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also be helpful in maintaining your energy. Talk with your doctor or nurse.

**Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)**

**Fertility:**
- It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm 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.
- 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.*