



## Chemotherapy: Daunorubicin (Cerubidine®)

Pronounced: "daw-noe-ROO-bi-sin"

**How drug is given:** By vein (IV)

**Purpose:** To treat leukemia and other cancers

### Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Care is taken to prevent this drug from leaking into nearby tissue. If the drug leaks this is called an extravasation and it can cause harm. If you feel warmth, 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 cancer care team immediately if you notice any of these symptoms.**
- You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. Nausea and vomiting may begin soon after the drug is given and may last more than 24 hours. You may be given medicine to help with this.
- Your urine may turn orange or red, which may last 1 to 2 days after the drug is given. This happens because the drug is red, and it leaves your body in the urine.

### Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

- Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. This includes a decrease in your:
  - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
  - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
  - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (39°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **tell your cancer care team right away**.

If you have an ongoing fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, be sure to drink plenty of fluids. If you become dizzy or lightheaded, call your cancer care team right away.

- 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 that have alcohol in them because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, let your cancer care team know. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.
- Some or all of your hair may fall out around 3 to 4 weeks after treatment starts. You may lose hair on your head as well as facial and body hair. You may want to buy a wig before hair loss begins. Hair may grow back during treatment.
- Loose stools or diarrhea may occur after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. It is important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, tell your cancer care team.

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

- This drug may affect your heart. This is usually linked to the total amount of drug that you are given over time. Your heart function will be followed. You should tell your cancer care team if you are coughing, have trouble breathing, have chest pain, and/or have swelling in the feet or ankles.

### **Sexual health and fertility**

#### **Women**

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for at least one month after your last dose if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- 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 breastfeed while receiving this drug.

#### **Men**

- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
- Men can become sterile and may want to consider sperm banking prior to treatment

*The information in this document includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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 are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team.*

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