



Bleomycin (Blenoxane®)

("blee-oh-MYE-sin")

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: to stop the growth of squamous cell carcinomas, lymphoma, testicular cancer, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of each treatment

- On rare occasions, an allergic reaction can occur that can be severe and sudden, with fever, chills, chest pain, and breathing trouble. This is an emergency that requires immediate medical treatment. This can be life threatening.
- Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
- You may get a fever or chills even when you do not have an infection. These can be treated with acetaminophen (Tylenol®). If you have an ongoing fever of 100.5 F (38C) or higher, make sure to drink plenty of fluids. If you become dizzy or lightheaded, **call your cancer care team right away.**

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush when 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 rinse _____ that have alcohol in them, because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, tell your doctor or nurse. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.

2. Skin changes, such as dryness, rash, or darkening of skin color, can occur on your body. There may be redness and pain over areas where you have gotten radiation therapy. Sunlight may cause your skin to burn easier, so use a sunscreen of SPF 30 or greater when you go outside. Do not go to tanning booths.

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



1. Fertility and Related Precautions:
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug can harm an unborn baby.
 - Men can 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 breastfeed while receiving this drug.
 - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.
2. Rarely, scarring of the lungs may occur. This lung damage may not get better. You will have tests to watch how your lungs are working. Tell your doctor if you notice any shortness of breath or cough. If you have surgery at any time in the future, tell your anesthesiologist and surgeon that you received this drug.
3. Rarely, patients may get a narrowing of blood vessels in the hands and feet (called Raynaud's Syndrome). This may occur several months after stopping the drug and you may feel pain in your hands or feet when exposed to cold temperatures.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed 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 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.

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