Doxorubicin Liposome (Doxil®)
(“doks-oh-ROO-bi-sin lye-po-soam”)

How this drug is given: By vein (IV)

Purpose: To stop the growth of cancer cells in many different types of cancer. This drug is a special form of the cancer drug doxorubicin, mixed in a special solution of liposomes (“fat bodies”).

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment
1. An allergic reaction may occur. Tell your doctor or nurse right away if you have fever, chills, chest pain, trouble breathing, itching, rash, or feel dizzy. You may be given drugs before you start therapy that will try to keep this from happening.

2. Your blood pressure may drop or your heart rate may slow down while you are getting this drug. This usually goes back to normal on its own.

3. If you feel any burning or tingling in the area of your IV, tell your cancer care team right away. If you develop any swelling or redness after you go home, please call your cancer care team.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later
1. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given drugs to help with this.

2. Some of your hair may thin and fall out with treatment.

3. The palms of your hands or the soles of your feet may become red and painful. This is called hand-foot syndrome. Tingling and peeling of the skin may occur. (This happens more often with repeated infusions.) Avoid tight fitting shoes. Use thick (moisturizing) creams on hands and feet. Your skin may be more sensitive to touch and pressure. You may want to limit activities that cause repeated pressure on your hands, feet and elbows.

4. 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 help you maintain your energy.

5. 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 tell your doctor or nurse if you have trouble buttoning your clothes. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over
time, after the drug is stopped. Take care when you are handling or near sharp objects. Use handrails to avoid falls. Wear supportive shoes.

6. Skin changes, such as a rash on your body, may occur. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use.

7. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake and increase fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®) and/or laxatives such as senna (Senokot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your cancer care team. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without talking with your cancer care team.

8. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within a few days after the drug is started. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. Be sure to also drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, call your cancer care team.

9. 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.

10. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
   - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
   - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding
   - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body

   This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. 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.

   **OR**

   If you have an ongoing fever of 100.5 F (38C) or higher, drink plenty of fluids. If you become dizzy or lightheaded, call your doctor or nurse right away.

11. 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 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 8oz. 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, tell your cancer care team. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.
Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

1. This drug may affect your heart. This is usually related to the total amount of drug that you are given over time. Your cancer team will check your heart function. You should tell your cancer care team if you have any of these symptoms: coughing, trouble breathing, chest pain, or swelling in the feet or ankles.

2. Sexuality and Fertility:
   - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
   - Men can become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
   - Women may not have regular menstrual cycles or it may stop completely.
   - Women may not be able to get pregnant.

If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

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 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 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.