Eribulin (Halaven®)
(“er-i-BUE-lin”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: To treat breast cancer and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

• Some patients may have mild nausea. You may be given medicine to help with this.
• You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.

Things that may occur days to weeks later

1. 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
   • White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
   • Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding
   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 (38°C) or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your cancer care team right away.

2. This drug may affect your heart. You may have a fast or unusual heartbeat. If you feel any strange changes in your heartbeat, tell your cancer care team right away. Your heart function will be checked regularly.

3. 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 cancer care team if you have trouble buttoning your clothes. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time, after the drug is stopped. Care should be taken with sharp objects, use handrails to avoid falls, and wear supportive shoes.

4. 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.
5. 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 (Senakot®), 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 first talking with your cancer care team.

6. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your cancer care team what medicine may help with this pain.

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.

**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 may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Women should not become pregnant while taking this drug or for 2 weeks after stopping it. Men should not father a child while taking this drug and for 3.5 months after stopping it.
- 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 breastfeed 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 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 about your treatment and side effects you may experience during and after treatment.

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:**