Idarubicin (Idamycin PFS®)
(“eye-da-RUE-bi-sin”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: To stop the growth of cancer cells in leukemia

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Tell your cancer care team right away if you have any of these symptoms: facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, feeling lightheaded, or getting a skin rash. These symptoms may be due to an allergic response, so telling your cancer care team is important.

2. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever and chills, may occur 30 minutes to 2 hours after the infusion. If these occur, your doctor may suggest taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help control the symptoms. Please let your doctor or nurse know if acetaminophen is not effective, since other drugs may be given.

3. You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. Nausea and vomiting may begin one to three hours after the drug is given and may last more than 24 hours. You may be given medicine to help with this.

4. Care is taken to prevent this drug from leaking into nearby tissue. If the drug leaks, this is called extravasation and it can cause harm. If you feel warmth, burning, or tingling in the area of your IV, 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 experience any such symptoms.

5. 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.

6. 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.
Things that may occur a few 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. After that, 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, call your cancer care team right away.

2. 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.

3. You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. Use only a soft-bristle toothbrush for brushing your teeth. You may feel burning or see redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use a baking soda mouth rinse 4 or 5 times a day.

   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.

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

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 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.

If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

The information in this document 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.