



Chemotherapy: Idarubicin (Idamycin PFS®)

Pronounced: "eye-da-RUE-bi-sin"

How drug is given: By vein (IV)

Purpose: To stop the growth of cancer cells in leukemia and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

- 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.
- Your liver may be affected by this medicine. On occasion, blood work will be taken to monitor your liver function.
- 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**.

- 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.
- You may have an increased risk of bleeding events. Please tell your cancer care team right away if you feel new or sudden dizziness, lightheadedness, see blood in your stool, or feel like you are passing out.
- Rarely, 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

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

Women

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Barrier methods of birth control prevent the sperm from reaching the egg. Discuss with your cancer team which type of barrier method is best for you. Some barrier methods are cervical caps, female/male condoms, and diaphragms with spermicides. Some are available over the counter; others must be prescribed.
- 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.

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.

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.