



Mitoxantrone (Novantrone®)

("mye-toe-ZAN-trone")

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: Treatment of leukemia, prostate cancer, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Care is taken to prevent this drug from leaking into nearby tissue. If the drug leaks, this is called an extravasation and it can cause harm. If you feel warmth, burning, or tingling around your IV, please **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 of these symptoms.**

2. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
3. Your urine may turn green, which may last 1 to 2 days after the drug is given. This happens because the drug is blue and it mixes with yellow urine.

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:
 - 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. You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. A soft-bristle toothbrush should be used 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 8 oz. glass of water

Other mouth rinses may be ordered by your cancer care team. Do not use mouthwashes that have alcohol, because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow, tell your cancer care team. Check with your cancer care team before having any dental work done.

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

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

1. 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 let your cancer care team know if you are coughing, having trouble breathing, have chest pain and/or swelling in the feet or ankles.
2. Fertility:
 - It is important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
 - 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.
 - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

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

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects 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 take other medications. Please talk 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.