

# DOXORUBICIN



**This leaflet should be used in conjunction with the complete consumer medicine information (CMI) which is available from any pharmacy.**

This leaflet contains information about Doxorubicin including details of known side effects. It does not include every possible side effect.

The type and severity of side effects experienced differs for each child. Some side effects are minor and easily treated at home. However, others may be more serious and require prompt medical assessment. Side effects from treatment are routinely monitored with blood tests and clinical examination. If you have any questions about side effects during treatment, please speak to your doctor. Also, if your child experiences any problems or side effects during treatment, please contact your doctor, clinical nurse consultant/coordinator or pharmacy staff for advice.

## OTHER NAMES

- Adriamycin®

## PRESENTATION

- A clear, red liquid
- Drawn up in a syringe or diluted in a bag of fluid

## ADMINISTRATION

- Intravenous injection
- Intravenous infusion

## SIDE EFFECTS *Continued overleaf*

### Common

IMMEDIATE (within 1-2 days of receiving drug)	DELAYED (within 1-2 weeks of receiving drug)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nausea</li><li>• Vomiting</li><li>• Abdominal pain</li><li>• Diarrhoea</li><li>• Fever</li><li>• Red coloured urine for 24-48 hours after administration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decrease in blood count</li><li>• Hair loss</li><li>• Mucositis (inflammation or ulceration of the mouth and gut)</li></ul>

### Less common

- Abnormal heart rhythm

## SIDE EFFECTS (CONT.)

### Rare

- Allergic reactions which may be life-threatening. Symptoms of a severe reaction may include skin rash or hives, swelling or tingling of the lips and face, difficulty breathing and low blood pressure which may lead to collapse. Seek medical attention **immediately** if any of the above symptoms occur.
- Heart damage which may or may not be evident until many years after completion of treatment (risk increases with higher total dose)
- Liver damage
- Skin rash
- Redness and itching at the injection site
- Reduced function of the immune system
- Reactivation of skin damage from prior radiation therapy

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Doxorubicin can cause damage to nearby tissue if the medication leaks out of the vein. If this occurs, pain and swelling are usually immediate but may occur later. Notify the ward or clinic staff if your child complains of pain at the injection site.
- An echocardiogram to test the heart function is often required before and after receiving doxorubicin.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight and use a high SPF sunscreen.
- Keep ALL medication out of the reach of children.

## CONTACT

For further information, or to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's medication, please feel free to contact the Children's Cancer Centre of your child's treating hospital:

- The Royal Children's Hospital Oncology Pharmacy (03) 9345 6290
- Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Centre (03) 8572 3456 or Pharmacist desk (03) 8572 3464

Disclaimer: This information has been prepared by the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service, with input from the Children's Cancer Centre Pharmacy Departments at The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital. This information is for educational purposes only and should not be seen as a substitute for advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. If you have specific questions about the content of this information, or any other medical matter, it is recommended that you consult your doctor, pharmacist or other professional healthcare provider. This information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, however changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information.

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