

DACTINOMYCIN

(Actinomycin-D, Cosmegen)

Type of Drug: Anti-tumor Antibiotic

How is it Given?

- Intravenous (IV) - into a vein or central line

How Does it Work?

- Interferes with the growth of cancer cells

Common Side Effects:

- Low blood counts
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Mouth sores/esophagus or rectal area
- Skin rash or redness in the areas which received radiation therapy
- Sensitivity to sunlight
- Hair loss

Less Common Side Effects:

- Diarrhea
- Abnormal liver function tests
- Fever, chills
- Skin rash (acne-like)

Note:

- This medicine can be irritating to tissue if it leaks out into the vein. Tell the person giving the medicine if you feel any pain or burning while it is being given.
- Avoid direct exposure to sunlight – wear protective covering and apply sunscreen.