

DOXORUBICIN (Adriamycin)

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:

- Nausea/Vomiting
- Low blood counts
- Mouth sores and taste changes
- Urine may be pink/red due to the color of the drug. This may last up to 2 days after treatment (looks like red fruit punch)
- Sensitivity to sunlight
- Hair loss

Less Common Side Effects:

- Heart muscle damage
- Diarrhea
- Abnormal liver function tests
- Darkening or redness of the skin
- Skin rash or redness in the areas which received radiation therapy
- Nails may change in color and texture (become darker)

Note:

- Your heart will be tested before this medicine is given and then at certain times during and after your treatment. This is done to monitor how your heart is working.
- 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.