Doxorubicin HCl Liposome
(Doxil®)

What is Doxorubicin HCl Liposome?
Doxorubicin is in a chemotherapy drug used to treat many different types of cancer. It works by inhibiting formation of new DNA and RNA within the cancer cell, which leads to cancer cell death. The Liposomal form of Doxorubicin encloses the drug within a vesicle which helps to selectively deliver the drug to solid tumors. Once the vesicle enters the tumor, Doxorubicin is released and exerts its effects.

How will I receive Doxorubicin HCl Liposome?
Doxorubicin is given as an infusion through your vein (Intravenous).

What are the common side effects?
Please see chapter 5, “Managing Symptoms at Home”, in the manual.

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| **Decreased blood counts** (lowered platelets, red and white blood cells) may occur. You may feel weak and tired. You may develop infections more easily and may bruise more easily. | • Your health care providers will test your blood frequently to monitor your blood counts.  
• Report any signs of infection, fever, and unusual bleeding or bruising. |
| **Nausea and vomiting** may occur, usually within 24-48 hours after treatment. | • You will be given medications to help you tolerate these side effects.  
• See the Nausea section of the manual |
| Doxorubicin may cause **burning at the injection site** if it leaks under the skin. | • Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if you have any burning, pain, redness or swelling while the medication is being infused. |
| **Hair loss, thinning or a change in the texture** of your hair may occur within a few days to weeks of treatment. | • Your hair will grow once your Doxorubicin treatment is finished.  
• Use a gentle baby shampoo and soft brush. Avoid hair spray, bleaches or perms. |
| **Mouth ulcers** may occur within 5-10 days of treatment. | • Good mouth care is very important.  
• Please see the Mucositis section of the resource manual. |
| **Darkening or discoloration of the urine** may occur for 1 to 2 days after the drug is given. The urine may appear pink, orange, or red colored. | • This is a temporary side effect that will resolve once your Doxorubicin treatment is complete. |

These are the most common side effects. Others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.
Call and Seek Help Immediately If You Have:
- Signs of an infection such as fever (over 100.9°F or 38.3°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, pain or burning when you urinate.
- Signs of uncontrolled bleeding such as black tarry stools, blood in the urine or severe bruising.

Contact Your Nurse or Doctor If You Have:
- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Signs of heart problems such as trouble breathing, swelling of your legs or ankles, uneven or fast heartbeat, or chest pain.
- Skin rash, especially in an area where you previously had radiation therapy.

Special Instructions
Inform your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse if you have a history of heart problems or liver disease. If you are taking medications to treat heart disease, be sure to mention that to your health care providers. Use birth control when receiving chemotherapy. Talk to your doctor or nurse about any additional questions.

Drug-Drug Interactions
None known at this time. Check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist before taking any new medications.

Drug-Food Interactions
None known at this time.

For more complete information please request an additional teaching sheet from the National Library of Medicine at [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html), your nurse, pharmacist, or visit the Resource Center.

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