COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT: DOXORUBICIN (ADRIAMYCIN®) HYDROXYDAUNORUBICIN

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
• Red fluid

HOW IS IT GIVEN?
• Injected into a vein

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS?
• Lowering of the white blood cell counts, which may increase your risk for infection.
• Lowering of the platelet count which may result in easy bruising or bleeding.
• Hair loss can happen 2 or more weeks after therapy begins. Your hair will grow back fully several months after this drug therapy is completed.
• Nausea or vomiting which is usually controlled with anti-nausea medications.
• May turn your urine orange or red for 1-2 days after treatment.
• Diarrhea

WHAT ARE THE LEAST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS?
• Heart muscle damage may occur. This is more likely to happen after you have received several doses. Heart studies are performed at certain times throughout treatment to monitor heart function.
• Some patients may experience skin redness or rash in areas that have been previously treated with radiation.
• Mouth sores
• Liver problems
• Feeling tired and weak
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- This drug can be damaging to tissue if it leaks out of the vein. Specially trained nurses will administer this drug to make sure that it does not happen.

- It is important to tell the nurse if you feel burning, stinging, pain or discomfort while the drug is being given. If the injection area becomes red or swollen after the injection, notify your doctor or nurse immediately.

- You will have more sensitivity to sunlight. This means you may burn more easily than normal. It is important to apply sunscreen to all exposed areas when you are going to be out in the sun.