

# Medical Oncology

## Drug Information Sheet

**Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil):** a drug to treat your cancer.

**How will you get this drug?** A Cancer Center nurse will give this drug to you through an IV or your port.

<p><b>What should I avoid while receiving <i>Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil)</i>?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do NOT use Echinacea.</li> </ul>
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You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

<b>Possible Side Effects:</b>	<b>What to do:</b>
<p><b>Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu.</li> <li>• Wash your hands often.</li> <li>• Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night.</li> <li>• Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores.</li> <li>• Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report signs of bleeding or bruising.</li> <li>• Avoid taking aspirin or aspirin products unless your doctor tells you to take it.</li> <li>• Use soft toothbrush.</li> <li>• Use electric razor.</li> <li>• Talk to your doctor before any scheduled medical or dental procedures.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Severe headache.</li> <li>○ Blood in stools or urine.</li> <li>○ Bleeding for a long period.</li> <li>○ Uncontrolled bleeding.</li> <li>○ Bruising.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Lower than normal red blood cells</b> Anemia</p>	<p>Call you doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ shortness of breath with activity</li> <li>○ fatigue</li> <li>○ dizziness</li> <li>○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ headache</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nausea/vomiting</b> <b>Decreased appetite</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you.</li> <li>• Eat smaller, frequent meals.</li> <li>• Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure).</li> <li>• A dietitian is available to talk with you.</li> </ul>

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<b>Possible Side Effects:</b>	<b>What to do:</b>
<p><b>Hand and Foot Syndrome</b> tenderness and redness of palms and bottom of feet where skin becomes dry and peels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply moisturizing lotion often.</li> <li>• Avoid using hot water or standing for long times.</li> <li>• Wear gloves and comfortable shoes to prevent injuries.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ redness, swelling, peeling, or tenderness of hands or feet.</li> <li>○ any skin redness, itching, rash or blisters that ooze or peel.</li> <li>○ tingling/burning or your skin is sensitive to touch.</li> <li>○ a hard time walking or using your hands.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Stomatitis</b> Sores in your throat or mouth (stomatitis) may occur a few days or a few weeks after medicine is given.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let your nurse or doctor know if you have sores in your mouth.</li> <li>• Avoid spicy, hot or cold foods.</li> <li>• Avoid using tobacco products, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol.</li> <li>• Mix 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda and 1/8 teaspoon of salt with 2 cups of water. Rinse your mouth and gargle the mixture at least four times daily, especially after you eat. Do not swallow this mixture, just rinse and spit.</li> <li>• Use a soft toothbrush.</li> <li>• Your doctor may prescribe a special mouthwash for you to use.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bone, muscle, joint pain</b></p>	<p>Use pain prescription as directed. Notify your doctor if the pain is uncontrolled.</p>
<p><b>Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil) will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier.</li> <li>• Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away.</li> <li>• Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens.</li> <li>• Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water.</li> <li>• You may use the same toilet that you normally use.</li> <li>• If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet</li> <li>• Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.</li> <li>• <b>It is safe to hug and kiss.</b></li> </ul>

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Possible Side Effects:	
<b>Avoid pregnancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What to do:</b></li> <li>● This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>● Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for <b>6</b> months after stopping this drug.</li> <li>● If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within <b>6</b> months after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>● May cause fertility problems.</li> </ul>

### Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
<p><b><i>Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil)</i> can affect your heart muscle.</b> There is a limit to how much <i>Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil)</i> you should receive in your lifetime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Your doctor will monitor and manage how <i>Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil)</i> you will receive in your lifetime.</li> <li>● Report to nurse or doctor if you have shortness of breath, chest pain, or swelling in your ankles.</li> <li>● Routine scans of your heart will be done during treatment.</li> <li>● Heart problems may happen months to years after <i>Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil)</i> therapy.</li> </ul>
<b>Stinging or burning if drug gets out of vein</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tell your nurse <b>right away</b> if you have redness, burning, pain, swelling, or leaking of fluid where the drug is going into your body.</li> <li>● The drug can cause severe damage to the tissue at the IV site.</li> </ul>
<b>Serious allergic reactions</b> Up to 24 hours after infusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Call the nurse right away for unusual feelings, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ hot or flushed face and neck</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ chills</li> <li>○ pain in the abdomen or back</li> <li>○ trouble breathing or wheezing</li> <li>○ chest tightness</li> <li>○ swelling of your face, lips, or tongue</li> <li>○ a rash</li> <li>○ itching</li> <li>○ hives</li> <li>○ cough</li> <li>○ runny or stuffy nose</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Call 911 and go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms after you return home.</li> </ul>

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Less common side effects	What to do:
<p><b>Increased risk for bone marrow problems or another cancer</b>            Leukemia            Mouth cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to your doctor about your concerns.</li> <li>• Be sure your family doctor knows you have received chemotherapy or immunotherapy medicine.</li> <li>• Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ unexplained weight loss</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ extreme tiredness that doesn't get better with rest</li> <li>○ unexplained pain</li> <li>○ changes in bowel or bladder habits</li> <li>○ sores that do not heal</li> <li>○ unusual bleeding or discharge</li> <li>○ trouble swallowing</li> <li>○ cough or hoarseness that does not go away</li> <li>○ mouth sores</li> <li>○ pain in mouth</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.</b></p>	