



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome

Other names: VYXEOS®

- **Daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome** (daw" noe roo' bi sin-sye tare' a been) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a purple liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to daunorubicin or cytarabine before receiving daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The timing of your treatment may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome.
- Daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome may affect **fertility** in men. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome.
- Daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome and for at least 6 months after the last dose. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for at least 2 weeks after the last dose.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome before you receive any treatment from them.

Changes in blood counts

Daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by ordering regular blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Call your healthcare team immediately at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. <p>Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your doctor if you should continue taking ASA that has been prescribed for your heart. • For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Allergic reactions may sometimes occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include flushing, rash, itching, fever, or swelling. This can occur immediately or several hours after receiving daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome and usually only with the first or second dose.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome or contact your oncologist immediately if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>
<p>Daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome burns if it leaks under the skin.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if you feel burning, stinging, or any other change while the drug is being given.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated. Most people have little or no nausea.	You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.* Tell your healthcare team if nausea or vomiting continues or is not controlled with your anti-nausea drug(s).
Fever and chills may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer) which occurs more than a few days after treatment may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your healthcare team immediately.
Diarrhea may sometimes occur. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.* Tell your healthcare team if you have diarrhea for more than 24 hours.
Constipation may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Minor bleeding, such as nosebleeds , may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit up straight and tip your head slightly forward. Tilting your head back may cause blood to run down your throat. • Pinch your nostrils shut between your thumb and forefinger or apply firm pressure against the bleeding nostril for 10 full minutes. • After 10 minutes, check to see if your nose is still bleeding. If it is, hold it for 10 more minutes. • Stay quiet for a few hours and do not blow your nose for at least 12 hours after the bleeding has stopped. • Get emergency help if a nosebleed lasts longer than 20 minutes.
Sore mouth may sometimes occur a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth, or in the throat. Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste. • Make a mouthwash with ¼ teaspoon baking soda AND ¼ teaspoon salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day. • Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Try with a Sore Mouth</i>.*
Headache may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs commonly occurs if your body retains extra fluid.	If swelling is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
You may sometimes have trouble sleeping .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your healthcare team if you continue to have trouble sleeping.
Loss of appetite sometimes occurs.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*
Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Hair loss does not occur with daunorubicin-cytarabine liposome.	

***Please ask your nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black or tarry stools, blood in urine, pinpoint red spots on skin, or extensive bruising.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.

CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Signs of **gout** such as joint pain.

CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Muscle or joint pain.
- Eye problems such as changes in eyesight, blurry vision, dry eye, or eye swelling.
- Hearing problems.
- Abdominal pain.
- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Feeling anxious or confused or seeing or hearing things that are not there.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores where the needle was placed.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM
