Arroyo Grande Community Hospital
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, please consult your physician **or call AGCH Coastal Cancer Care at 805.481.7245. For emergency, call 911.**

PATIENT EDUCATION

Adriamycin (Doxorubicin)

SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- **Lowered Blood Counts –** This is temporary and usually occurs 10-14 days after treatment. During this time you are more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding. Blood test may be done to monitor your bleed counts.
- **Nausea and Vomiting –** This may last 24 hours. Medication will be given to help control/prevent this. It is recommended that anti-nausea medication be taken for at least 24 hours after your treatment.
- **Pink, Red, or Orange Colored Urine –** is dose related. Your doctor may check your cardiac function prior to your first treatment.
- **Sores in the Mouth –** may or may not occur. It is important to maintain good mouth care. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush. May occur 7-10 days after treatment.
- **Fever –** May occur in the first 24-48 hours after receiving the drug.
- **Temporary Skin Redness** at the treatment site**. Hives** may develop during infusion.
- **Fatigue –** May include general physical and mental fatigue (difficulty concentrating)

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Redness, pain, or swelling at the injection site
- Uncontrolled nausea and vomiting; inability to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen, white patches in your mouth or on your tongue
- Blood in bowel movements or urine, unusual bruising or nosebleeds
- Chest pain, shortness of breath, swelling of your legs/ankles, fast or irregular heartbeat

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures –** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Leakage of this drug outside the vein can cause pain and skin damage similar to a serious burn. Tell your nurse/doctor IMMEDIATELY if you have any pain at the injections site.**
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**