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

Bleomycin (Blenoxane)

SIDE EFFECTS

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

- **Nausea/Vomiting –** This is not common, but may occur in the first 24 hours after receiving this medication.
- **Sores in the Mouth –** Patients experience this in varying degrees – your mouth may become red and sore about 10 days after receiving this drug. It is very important that you maintain good mouth care, both to make you feel better and to prevent infections. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush. If you have difficulty eating, the doctor may be able to prescribe a medication to take away some of the discomfort during meals. Soft, bland food at medium temperatures may make eating easier.
- **Fever –** It is common to have a fever in the first 24 hours after receiving this drug. Talk with your doctor about taking Tylenol to control/prevent this.
- **Loss of Hair –** May temporarily lose your hair. Your hair will usually grow back after you have completed your treatment.
- **Tumor Pain –** You may notice pain in the area of your cancer.
- **Skin and Nail Changes –** You may notice your skin darkening or a redness. You may also develop lines that resemble stretch marks, ulcers, or calluses on your elbows, hands, fingers, toes, or feet. Nail color may also change and you may notice ridging of your nails.
- **Lung Changes –** You may develop some shortness of breath due to scarring of your lung tissue. Because of this, the total dose you receive of this drug is carefully calculated and you may be asked to have chest X-rays and breathing studies.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Any difficulty with breathing or a non-productive cough
- Mouth sores or ulcers
- Unusual weakness, dizziness, shortness of breath, wheezing, itching, or confusion within the first 24 hours after receiving this drug.
- Signs of Infections: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, a new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen, or white patches in your mouth or tongue.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures –** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**
- You may be given a test dose before receiving this drug.