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

Epirubicin (Ellence)

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 tests may be done to monitor your blood counts.
- **Nausea and Vomiting –** May occur. Medication will be given to help control/prevent this.
- **Pink, Red, or Orange Colored Urine –** for 1-2 days after the drug is given.
- **Reversible Hair Loss –** Almost all patients lose all body hair. This is a temporary side effect and usually occurs 2-3 weeks after your first treatment. New growth resumes 2-3 months after your last treatment.
- **Heart Rhythm Abnormalities and Heart Failure –** 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 a few days after treatment.
- **Fatigue –** May include general physical and mental fatigue (difficulty concentrating)
- **Changes in Menstrual Cycle –** may cause early menopause and changes in your period.

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
- Sores in your mouth

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 injection site.**
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**