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

Hydroxyurea (Hydrea)

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 –** Your blood counts may drop if high doses are taken. This change in blood counts is usually temporary and recovery is prompt. Your blood counts will be monitored while you are receiving this drug.
- **Nausea/Vomiting –** Nausea and vomiting may occur if high doses are taken. You may need to take some dedication for this or take the capsules a few at a time.
- **Skin Changes –** A reddened rash occasionally occurs. Your mouth may become sore, especially if you are also receiving radiation.
- **Decreased Appetite**
- **Loss of Hair –** Not common, but may have some thinning.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Signs of Infections: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, sudden weakness or fatigue, pain or burning with urination, a cold, a sore that looks infected, white patches in your mouth or on your tongue, or any other signs of infection.
- A new rash which is uncomfortable.
- Confusion, convulsions, dizziness, headache, or hallucinations
- Any new or usual bleeding.
- An inability to take or keep medication or food down.
- Mouth sores

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 and tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**