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

Mitoxantrone (Novantrone)

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 will usually occur 10-14 days after receiving this drug. During this time you are more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding. Blood tests may be done to check your blood counts.
- **Nausea/Vomiting –** Mild to moderate. You will be given medication to try to control and prevent this.
- **Sore Mouth –** This may be experienced in varying degrees; some have fever blister-like sores, some have white patches. It is very important that you maintain good mouth care to prevent infections. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush. Never use commercial mouthwashes that contain alcohol. Your doctor may prescribe medication to help heal your mouth or make it feel better so you can eat. Eat soft, bland foods at medium temperatures.
- **Diarrhea**
- **Hair Loss –** Usually mild and temporary.
- **Blue/Green Discoloration of Urine/Eyes –** Urine may appear to be green for 24-28 hours; whites of eyes bluish/green for 24-28 hours after receiving this drug.
- **Cardiovascular Symptoms –** May occur; watch for fast heartbeat or chest pain.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience:

- 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.
- Signs of Bleeding: Nosebleeds that will not stop with pressure; blood in urine or stool; bleeding gums; unusual bruising; red or purple spots on your body.
- Chest pain, fast heart beat, leg swelling, or shortness of breath
- Uncontrolled nausea and/or vomiting or unable to eat or drink for 24 hours
- Redness, pain, or swelling at site of injection.
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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.**
- **Irritation at Injection Site – This drug is irritating to the vein it is given through. If it should leak outside of the vein, it can burn and damage the surrounding tissue. TELL YOUR NURSE IF YOU HAVE ANY PAIN OR BURNING WHILE RECEIVING THIS DRUG.**