



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## Hydrea ®

**Generic name:** Hydroxyurea

**Drug type:** Hydrea is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

### How this drug is given:

- Hydrea is a pill, taken by mouth.
- Hydrea may be dissolved in water.

### Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Hydrea:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

### The following side effects are common for patients receiving Hydrea:

- Low blood counts. Your white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease. This can put you at increased risk for infection, anemia and/or bleeding.

### These are less common side effects for patients receiving Hydrea:

- Hair loss (mild thinning)
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Mouth sores
- Poor appetite
- Nail thickening, nail banding
- Discoloration of the skin or nails
- Darkening of the skin where previous radiation treatment has been given.

### When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101° F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)

**Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.**