



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Idamycin ®

Generic name: Idarubicin

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

How Idamycin is given:

- Idamycin is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).
- Idamycin is a vesicant. A vesicant is a chemical that causes extensive tissue damage and blistering if it escapes from the vein. If you notice redness or swelling at the IV site while you are receiving Idamycin, alert your nurse immediately.

Side effects of Idamycin:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Idamycin:

- 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 Idamycin:

- Pain along the site where the medication was given
- Low blood counts; white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease.
- Urine may appear red, red-brown, orange or pink from the color of the medication for one to two days after you receive a dose.
- Nausea or vomiting (usually mild, occurs within 1-2 hours of treatment).
- Mouth sores (in the first week after therapy).
- Hair loss on the scalp or elsewhere on the body. Most patients do lose some or all of their hair during their treatment. But your hair will grow back after treatment is completed.
- Diarrhea/abdominal cramps.

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Idamycin:

- Fever
- Headache
- Nail thickening, nail banding
- Discoloration of the skin or nails
- Darkening of the skin where previous radiation treatment has been given.
- Hand -foot syndrome (Palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia or PPE) -skin rash, swelling, redness, pain and/or peeling of the skin on the palms of hands and soles of feet

- Loss of fertility; your ability to conceive or father a child may be affected by Idamycin. Discuss this issue with your health care provider.
- Heart rhythm abnormalities, generally without symptoms and short lived
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function. These return to normal once treatment is discontinued

A serious but uncommon side effect of Idamycin can be interference with the pumping action of the heart.

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)
- Blistering at the IV site
- Shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, closing up of the throat, swelling of facial features, hives (possible allergic reaction)

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)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Fast or irregular heart beats
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools or urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Swelling of the feet or ankles
- Redness, itchiness or pus in eyes

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