Daunomycin in the Treatment of Cancer

**Daunomycin** (Daunorubicin®, Cerubidine®) is a medication used in the treatment of some cancers. This medication works by blocking cell reproduction, which prevents cell growth.

Daunomycin is injected into the vein (IV) by infusion or IV push.

Your doctor will give you a copy of your child’s treatment protocol which will include information on the medication dose and when it will be given.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (unless otherwise instructed):**

- Daunomycin can cause chemical burns if it comes in contact with the skin. If your child does not have a central line (PORT-A-CATH®, Hickman® catheter, or PICC), a new IV stick will be required each time the dose is given.

- Your child’s heart function will be monitored often (according to protocol or more often as needed) while he is receiving this medication and after therapy is completed.

- Make sure to protect your child from exposure to the sun. Use PABA-free sunscreen (SPF 30) and wear protective clothing (hat, long sleeves, and pants) when outdoors.

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

The following side effects are common:

- Low white blood cell count – increasing your child’s risk of infection
- Low platelet count – increasing your child’s risk for bleeding
- Red colored urine for 2 days after receiving the medication (due to the red color of the medication)
- Nausea and vomiting
- Hair loss
- Abnormal liver function tests
- mouth sores
- stomach ulcers
The following side effects are less common, but can occur:

- Nails may change in color and texture
- Heart muscle damage (Your child’s total dose of Daunomycin will be closely monitored to decrease the risk of heart muscle damage.)

Call your child’s doctor or nurse if your child has:

- Fever of 101.5° (38.6° C) or greater
- Severe nausea and vomiting
- Bruising or bleeding

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Call your child’s Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse at (816) 234-3265.

Monday through Friday after 5 p.m., and on weekends or holidays:
Call (816) 234-3000 and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call."