Dactinomycin (Actinomycin-D®, ACT-D®, Cosmegen®) is a medication used to treat some cancers. This medication works by blocking reproduction, which prevents cell growth.

Dactinomycin can be given by slow IV push over a few minutes.

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

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (unless otherwise instructed):

Your child should wear protective clothing, a hat, and sunscreen (SPF greater than 30) when in the sun.

SIDE EFFECTS:

The following side effects are common:

- Low platelet count – increasing your child’s risk of bleeding
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Darkening of the skin and nails
- Liver problems
- Sensitivity to sunlight

The following side effects are less common, but can occur.

- Allergic reaction
- Damage to the surrounding skin/tissue if the medication leaks from the IV.
- Low white blood count-increasing your child’s risk for infection
- Low red blood cell count-increasing your child’s risk for anemia
- Diarrhea
- Mouth sores
- Hair loss

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

- Fever of 101.5° F (38.6° C) or greater
- Nausea that lasts for more than 24 hours
- Sore throat
- Bleeding or bruising
- Abdominal pain, especially if it is on the right side

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."