



## Treatment & medication

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# Doxorubicin

Other name: Adriamycin.

### What is it and how does it work?

A medicine that inhibits cell division (cytostatic drug).

### What does it look like and how is it given?

A red liquid that is administered as a bolus injection or as an infusion into a vein (intravenous) (depending on the protocol).

### Short-term side effects (within 24 hours)

- Irritation of the skin (burn-like patches) in case the medicine leaks from the blood vessel
- Nausea and vomiting
- Red discoloration of the urine (1 to 2 days after administration)
- Diarrhea caused by the inflammation of the mucous membranes of the intestines

### Long-term side effects

- A sore mouth caused by inflamed mucous membranes (5 to 10 days after administration)
- Decrease in the number of red and particularly white blood cells and platelets (10 to 14 days after administration)

- Hair loss
- Damage to the muscle of the heart
- Discoloration or redness of the skin surrounding the injected vein or in the (previously) irradiated area
- Changes in the nails

### Special instructions

- Warn your doctor or nurse if your child complains about a burning or painful sensation during the administration, or if the skin becomes red or painful after the administration.
- The skin is more sensitive to sunburn. Avoid the sun and use sun cream with a high sun protection factor (SPF).

### Specifics

Your child will have regular electrocardiograms (ECG) and/or ultrasound scans of the heart, to check the functioning of the heart.

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This card lists the most common side effects and specifics of this medicine. If you want a complete list, please ask the doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.