

## Medication Information Sheet

**dexrazoxane** (decks-raz-OX-ane)

*This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.*

**Other Name:** Zinecard®

**Appearance:** Clear solution mixed into larger bags of fluids

**What is this medication for?**

- Used to decrease the harmful effects on the heart caused by chemotherapy. It is not used as an anticancer drug by itself.

**What should I do before I have this medication?**

- Tell your doctor if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had kidney or liver disease, or have any allergies.
- People who have cancer are at a higher risk of developing other cancers or leukemias (usually some years later). Some cancer medications, such as dexrazoxane, may increase these risks especially if used for a prolonged period of time. You should discuss any concerns about this drug with your doctor.

**How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?**

- The use of this medication in men or women may cause harm to the unborn baby if pregnancy occurs. Let your health care team know if you or your partner is pregnant, becomes pregnant during treatment, or if you are breastfeeding
- ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while taking this drug. Keep using birth control for at least **6 months** after your last dose unless your health care team told you differently. Talk to your health care team to figure out the best method(s) for you and/or your partner.
- Do not breastfeed while using this drug.
- Effects on Fertility: Probable

**How is this medication given?**

- This drug is given by injection into a vein.

\*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>

Prepared with input from the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.

April 2016

## What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- This medication can interact with other medications and can result in the treatment not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your health care team knows about all your medications (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- For mild aches and pain:
  - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your health care team about the right dose for you.
  - Talk to your health care team first before starting ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, ASA), since these may increase your chance of bleeding.
  - If you are already taking aspirin regularly, such as for heart conditions; Do not stop it- talk to your health care team first.
  - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before using any of these drugs. They may hide a fever. **Phone your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away if you have a fever.** See the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

The following side effects have been seen in people using dexrazoxane with other chemotherapy drugs, so some of these effects may also be related to chemotherapy.

The following side effects are common or severe. You may not have all of the side effects, while others may occur. Discuss with your doctor if you have any unusual or bothersome symptoms. Refer to the doxorubicin Medication Information Sheet for additional side effects when these drugs are used together.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
<b>More Common Side Effects</b>	
<b>Reactions at the injection site</b> (redness, itchiness, bruising, mild rash or swelling)	blank

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
<b>Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe</b>	
<p><b><i>Unusual bleeding or bruising</i></b></p> <p>You may have black stools, cough up blood, blood in your urine, purple or red dots on your skin or bleeding that will not stop.</p> <p><b><i>Fever, chills, infection</i></b></p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR</b></li> <li>• <b>38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.</b></li> </ul> <p>While you are getting chemotherapy treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills).</li> <li>• Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever.</li> <li>• Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature.</li> <li>• Wash your hands often.</li> <li>• Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries or visiting your dentist.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room.</b></p> <p>See our <a href="#">Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count)</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to [www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms](http://www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms).

*The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.*

*A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.*