



Your Facility Name Here

This header text can be customized to deliver a specific message to your patients or to highlight programs and events at your facility.

Comprehensive Cancer Information for Patients, Families and Medical Professionals Printed from CancerHelp®

Disclaimer:

CancerHelp™ is not intended, nor should it be used to make medical recommendations. It is intended merely to provide information that may help you and your licensed physician make decisions about your care. Information is kept current through monthly updates.

Taxol is a brand name of this medication.

The generic name of this medication is: Paclitaxel (Injection)

These medication statements are written by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) at a patient level and are updated quarterly.

WHAT IS IT?

Paclitaxel (PAK-li-taks-el) belongs to the group of medicines called antineoplastics. It is used to treat cancer of the ovaries, breast, certain types of lung cancer, and a cancer of the skin and mucous membranes in patients with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). This medicine may also be used for other types of cancer as determined by your doctor.

If any of the information in this leaflet causes you special concern or if you want additional information about your medicine and its use, check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

BEFORE USING

Discuss with your doctor the possible side effects of this medicine.

Some of them may be serious or last a long time.

Tell your doctor, nurse, and pharmacist if you . . .

- o are allergic to any medicine, either prescription or nonprescription (over-the-counter [OTC]);
- o are pregnant or intend to become pregnant while using this medicine;
- o are breast-feeding;
- o are using any other prescription or nonprescription (over-the-counter [OTC]) medicine, especially amphotericin B, azathioprine, chloramphenicol, colchicine, flucytosine, ganciclovir, interferon, medicine for overactive thyroid, plicamycin, or zidovudine;
- o have any other medical problems, especially chickenpox (including recent exposure), heart rhythm problems, herpes zoster (shingles), or infection;
- o have ever been treated with radiation or cancer medicines.

HOW TO TAKE AND STORE

This medicine often causes nausea and vomiting, which is usually mild. However, it is very important that you continue to receive the medicine, even if you have discomfort or begin to feel ill. Ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist for ways to lessen these effects.

WARNINGS

It is very important that your doctor check your progress at

regular visits to make sure this medicine is working properly and to check for unwanted effects.

While you are being treated with this medicine, and after you stop treatment, do not have any immunizations (vaccinations) without your doctor's approval. In addition, other persons living in your household should not take oral polio vaccine since there is a chance they could pass the polio virus on to you. Also, avoid persons who have taken oral polio vaccine within the past several months.

Paclitaxel can temporarily lower the number of white blood cells in your blood, increasing the chance of getting an infection. It can also lower the number of platelets, which are necessary for proper blood clotting. If this occurs:

Avoid people with infections.

Be careful when using a regular toothbrush, dental floss, or toothpick.

Do not touch your eyes or the inside of your nose unless you have just washed your hands and have not touched anything else in the meantime.

Be careful not to cut, bruise, or injure yourself.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side Effects That Should Be Reported To Your Doctor Immediately

Less common -- Black, tarry stools; blood in urine or stools; pinpoint red spots on skin; unusual bleeding or bruising

Rare -- Shortness of breath (severe); skin reaction (severe)

Other Side Effects That Should Be Reported To Your Doctor

More common -- Cough or hoarseness with fever or chills; fever or chills; flushing of face; lower back or side pain with fever or chills; painful or difficult urination with fever or chills; shortness of breath; skin rash or itching

Rare -- Pain or redness at place of injection; sores in mouth and on lips (usually get better within 7 days after treatment)

Side Effects That Usually Do Not Require Medical Attention

These possible side effects may go away during treatment; however, if they continue or are bothersome, check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

More common -- Diarrhea; nausea or vomiting; numbness, burning, or tingling in hands or feet; pain in joints or muscles, especially in arms or legs (begins 2 to 3 days after treatment and may last up to 5 days)

This medicine usually causes a temporary and total loss of hair (including eyebrows, eyelashes, and pubic hair) about 2 to 3 weeks after treatment begins. After treatment has ended, normal hair growth should return.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. If you notice any other effects, check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

The preceding information is an educational aid only. It is not intended as medical advice for individual conditions or treatments. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before following any medical regimen to see if it is safe and effective for you.

Date last reviewed by Micromedex: July 2001

c 1999 Micromedex, All Rights Reserved.

The information in this system has been produced and assembled by the CancerHelp Institute © Copyright, 1991-2002. CancerHelp® is a registered trademark of the CancerHelp Institute. The CancerHelp Institute, 1000 Skokie Blvd., Suite 100, Wilmette, IL 60091, Phone: (847) 256-3093, Fax: (847) 256-4985.

This footer text can also be customized.