

Paclitaxel (PACK-lih-tax-el)

Also Known As: Taxol®

How It Is Given:

- Intravenously (IV, by vein).
- Intraperitoneally (IP, through a catheter placed in your abdomen).

Early Side Effects (beginning within one week) Can Include:

- An allergic reaction (rash, facial flushing, or trouble breathing). It is rare. Drugs are given beforehand to help prevent this reaction.
- Mild nausea and vomiting.
- Fatigue.
- Joint pain and body aches.

Late Side Effects (beginning after one week) Can Include:

- Mouth sores.
- Thinning or loss of hair. Your hair will grow back when your treatment is done.
- Numbness and tingling in the hands and feet.
- A temporary decrease in blood-cell count (white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets). This can make you feel tired and bruise or bleed easily. It also raises the risk for infection. Follow the guidelines your nurse will give you.

Special Points

- This drug can damage tissue if it leaks out of the vein where it is given. Tell your nurse right away if you have any pain at the IV site while the drug is going in.
- This medicine can harm an unborn child. Ask your doctor or nurse about the type of birth control you should use. Tell your doctor immediately if you think you or your partner might be pregnant.
- Speak with your doctor before you get any vaccine, e.g., a flu shot.
- Aspirin, NSAIDs (e.g., Motrin®, Aleve®), and vitamin E can cause bleeding problems. Do not take medicine that has them unless your doctor says it is okay. Your nurse will give you a fact card that tells you what drugs you cannot take and what you can use instead.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any other medicines or have changed medicines. Some may change the way this drug works. Include:
 - Ketoconazole (Nizoral®).
 - Other medicines that do and do not require a prescription.

- Herbal remedies.
- Vitamins.
- Dietary supplements.
- Do not breast feed during your treatment.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse If You Have:

- Any pain or burning at the IV site.
- A fever of 100.4° F (38.0° C) or higher.
- Mouth sores.
- Joint aches or pain.
- Uncontrolled nausea or diarrhea.
- Pain in your back.
- A rash.
- Any sign of bleeding. This includes:
 - Black bowel movements.
 - Bruising.
 - Faint red rash.
 - Other signs of bleeding.
- Any unexpected or unexplained problems.
- Any questions or concerns.

The information on this card is selective and does not cover all possible side effects; others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor.

