

Docetaxel (DOE-SEE-TAX-OL)

Also Known As: Taxotere®

How It Is Given:

Intravenously (by vein)

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

- Pain and irritation along the vein where the drug is given. This can last as long as the drug goes in.
- Flushing of the skin, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and back discomfort. These symptoms disappear when the infusion is stopped.
- A red, raised, itchy rash.
- Peeling of the skin on hands and feet.
- Ridging and splitting of finger and toe nails.
- Redness or swelling at the injection site.
- Mouth sores.

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

- A temporary decrease in blood cell counts. White blood cells are affected the most.
- Thinning or loss of hair. Your hair will grow back when your treatment is done.
- Swelling of the arms and legs, bloating, and weight gain. Fluid can also gather around the lungs or the abdomen.
- Numbness or tingling of fingers and/or toes.
- Excessive tearing from your eyes.

Special Points:

- 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.
- Before you get docetaxel, you will be given a prescription for a medicine to prevent side effects. The nurse will tell you how to take this medicine. Please tell the nurse if you are unable to take it as instructed.
- 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:
 - Medicines that do and do not require a prescription.
 - Herbal remedies.
 - Vitamins.
 - Dietary supplements.

- The vein where the drug was given may feel tender for a few days. Apply a warm, moist compress to the area three to four times a day. It may help decrease the soreness.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse If You:

- Have shortness of breath.
- Have difficulty swallowing.
- Have pain, redness, swelling, or blistering near the injection site.
- Cannot keep anything you eat or drink down for 24 hours.
- Have a fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.
- Have swelling of the arms or legs.
- Have excessive tearing from your eyes.
- Have any unexpected, unexplained problems.
- Have 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.

