



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Abraxane®

Generic name: Paclitaxel protein-bound

Drug type:

Abraxane is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

How Abraxane is given:

- Abraxane is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).

Abraxane side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Abraxane:

- You will not get all of the side effects mentioned below.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after therapy is complete.
- Side effects are quite manageable. There are many options to minimize or prevent them.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving Abraxane:

- Low blood counts; your white and red blood cells may temporarily decrease
- Hair loss
- Nausea
- Abnormal ECG (electrocardiogram)
- Numbness and tingling of hands and feet
- Pain in the joints and muscles, usually temporary occurring 2-3 days after treatment and resolve within a few days
- Weakness and fatigue
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function; these return to normal once treatment is discontinued

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Abraxane:

- Infections
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Mouth sores
- Swelling of feet or ankles
- Shortness of breath
- Eye problems

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101° F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- If you notice any redness or pain at the site of infusion.
- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication).
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period).
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period).
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools.
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities).
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers).
- Numbness and tingling of the hands and feet.
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.