



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Taxotere ®

Generic Name: Docetaxel

How Taxotere is given:

- Taxotere is given through a vein (intravenously, IV)
- Premedication with a corticosteroid pill starting a day prior to Taxotere infusion for 3 days is sometimes given to reduce the severity of fluid retention and allergic reactions.

Taxotere side effects:

Important things to remember about Taxotere side effects:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects

The following side effects are common for patients receiving Taxotere:

- Low white blood cell count
- Low red blood cell count
- Fluid retention with weight gain, swelling of the ankles or abdominal area.
- Numbness in your fingers and toes- may occur with repeated doses
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Mouth sores
- Hair loss
- Fatigue and weakness
- Infection
- Nail changes (color changes to your fingernails or toenails may occur while taking Taxotere. In extreme, but rare, cases nails may fall off. After you have finished your treatments, your nails will generally grow back.)

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Taxotere:

- Vomiting
- Muscle/bone/joint pain
- Low platelet count
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function- these return to normal once treatment is discontinued

Infusion-related Taxotere side effects (symptoms which may occur during the actual treatment) include:

- Allergic reactions (rash, flushing, fever, lowered blood pressure). Rare and usually occurs in the first or second infusion. Frequency is reduced by premedication with corticosteroid starting one day before infusion. You will be monitored closely during the infusion for any signs of allergic reaction.
- Infusion site reactions (uncommon and generally mild, consist of darkening of the vein, inflammation, redness or dryness of the skin, or swelling of the vein).

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:

- 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 stool or blood in your stools or urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes
- Swelling of the ankles/weight gain/swelling of the stomach
- Shortness of breath

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