

ABOUT your medicine

Paclitaxel is an anti-cancer drug originally derived from the pacific yew tree. It works by preventing the division of cancer cells. It is commonly used to treat ovarian cancer, breast cancer and non-small cell lung cancer.

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

HOW is the medicine given?

It is given by slow infusion into a vein.

PACLITAXEL

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

- Fatigue, lethargy
- Mouth ulcers and changes in taste
- Diarrhoea
- Reversible hair loss
- Nausea and vomiting
- Headaches
- Aching or pain in joints and muscles may occur a few days after treatment (painkillers can be prescribed by your doctor to relieve the pain)
- Allergic reaction (rashes, itching, fever, shivering, redness of face, feeling of dizziness, headache, breathlessness, anxiety and a need to pass urine)
- Numbness or tingling in hands or feet
- Temporary decrease in white blood cells, platelets and red blood cells

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Take your Dexamethasone tablets before Paclitaxel chemotherapy strictly as instructed by your pharmacist. This is important for prevention of serious allergic reactions to Paclitaxel.

Come back to the hospital if you have:

- A temperature that exceeds 38 degrees Celsius
- Mouth ulcers that do not heal within 3 days
- Excessive vomiting despite taking medicine
- Breathing difficulties / wheezing

Report to your doctor if you experience:

- painful or burning urination
- unusual bleeding (tarry stools, blood in stools, urine or mouth)
- numbness or tingling in hands or feet

Come back to the hospital for regular blood test/s as instructed by the doctor.

Maintain adequate hydration (2-3 liters of fluid a day, unless otherwise advised by the doctor).

Eat adequately to maintain nutrition (small frequent meals will help).

Avoid crowds and do not go near people with infections during neutropenic (low white cell count) period.

Avoid half-cooked or uncooked foods. If you wish to take salad or fruits, wash them yourself. There are no other specific food restrictions.

Do not take any other medicines including alternative medicines without informing your doctor.

Observe oral hygiene. Gargle mouth with water after each meal and use a soft-bristled toothbrush.

Avoid hot scalding soups and beverages.

Avoid breast-feeding.

Contraceptive measures are recommended during therapy as Paclitaxel may cause harm to the unborn baby.

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required