

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

DOCETAXEL

ABOUT your medicine

Docetaxel is an anti-cancer drug that works by preventing cancer cells from dividing. It is commonly used to treat breast cancer and non-small cell lung cancer.

HOW is the medicine given?

It is given by slow infusion into a vein.

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

- Fatigue, lethargy
- Sore mouth and taste change
- Diarrhoea
- Hair loss
- Nausea and vomiting
- Soreness and redness of the palms of the hands and soles of feet (temporary and will improve when treatment is completed)
- Fluid retention
- Allergic reactions (rashes, itching, fever, shivering, redness of face, feeling of dizziness, headache, breathlessness, anxiety)
- Temporary decrease in white blood cells and platelets

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Take your Dexamethasone tablets before, during and after Docetaxel strictly as instructed by your Pharmacist. This is important for prevention of fluid retention.

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 diarrhoea and/or vomiting despite taking medicine
- Breathing difficulties / wheezing

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Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

Report to your doctor if you experience swelling of extremities.

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) and nutrition (small frequent meals may 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 Docetaxel may cause harm to the unborn baby.

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Company Registration Number. 198500843R

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

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