



United Family New Hope Oncology Center
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Docetaxel (Taxotere)

General information

Taxotere is a chemotherapy drug given IV over 1-hour. Taxotere can be given weekly or every 3-weeks. In order to prevent swelling caused by retaining fluid in your bodies tissues you will be instructed to take and be given a prescription for Decadron (a steroid) to take twice a day for a total of three days, starting the day before your scheduled treatment, the day of, and the day after your treatment. Let your nurse know if you have not taken your Decadron.

Food & Drug Information: Let your doctor know if you have a history of alcoholism or are taking medications to keep you from drinking alcohol. Taxotere has an alcohol base. Review your current prescription and non-prescription medications, including vitamins and herbal supplements with your doctor or treatment nurse. Certain antibiotics and anti-fungal drugs can change the action of Taxotere (**Nizoral, Erythromycin**).

Possible side effects-COMMON

Anemia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia	It can reduce the number of white blood cells, or blood-clotting cells (platelets) and red blood cells in the blood. Tell your doctor if (1) Your temperature goes over over 38 °C (100.4 °F); you suddenly feel unwell, even with a normal temperature; you have symptoms of an infection (this can include feeling shaky, a sore throat, a cough, diarrhoea or needing to pass urine a lot. (2) You have any bruising or bleeding you can't explain (nosebleeds/ bleeding gums/blood spots/ rashes on the skin); (3) If the number of red blood cells is low, you may be tired and breathless. Tell your doctor or nurse if you feel like this. Taxoteres peak effect on your bone marrow will occur about 9 days after receiving a dose.
Hair loss	This is usually a total loss of body hair. Your nurse can help you get a wig and/or head coverings. Generally, hair will grow back when treatment is completed .Protect your scalp from sunburn. Wear a wide brimmed hat.
Numbness or tingling of Hands and/ or feet	Let your doctor or you doctor's nurse know before your treatment if you are having this side effect. The numbness and tingling will usually go away when treatment is completed.
Fluid retention	This may show up as swelling of the feet and legs. It may also occur in the chest.Let your doctor or your doctor's nurse know immediately if you develop shortness of breath, lightheadedness, or a marked decrease in strength; as well as swelling of your legs and/or feet. The decadron that you are asked to take before and after the Taxotere helps reduce this fluid retention.
Skin and nail changes	Rashes are common. It may be blotchy or hive-like and usually shows up on the hands and feet. It usually occurs between treatments and goes away before the next treatment. Color changes of your nails may occur. In rare cases nails may fall off, but will grow back.

Nausea, vomiting	You will be given an anti-nausea medication before getting the Taxotere. You will also be given a prescription for anti-nausea medications for home use as needed. Take as directed. Let your doctor or your doctor's nurse know if these do not help your nausea and/or vomiting.
Sores in mouth	Good mouth care is very important. Let your doctor or your doctor's nurse know if you have a sore throat, difficulty swallowing food or fluids, or have white patches in your mouth or throat. Talk with your nurse about things you can do to prevent or lessen the discomfort of mouth sores.
It's important to let your doctor know straight away if you feel unwell or have any severe side effects, even if they're not mentioned above.	

Reference: Treatment and Chemotherapy Administration Resource For The Adult Patient.. Cancer Maine Medical Center.