

## TAXOL (PACLITAXEL)

Taxol is a chemotherapy agent used in the treatment of many types of cancer. It interferes with the growth of rapidly dividing cancer cells thus slowing or stopping their growth and spread through the body. Taxol may be used alone or with other chemo agents or radiation therapy. Taxol is given through a vein.

### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

**Common:**

- Low blood counts- (Taxol may decrease the number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets.)

**Signs of infection:** fever-chills-cough-sore throat-pain or difficulty passing urine.

**Signs of decreased platelets or bleeding:** bruising, pinpoint red spots on the skin, black tarry stools, blood in urine.

**Signs of decreased red blood cells:** unusual weakness or lightheadedness

- Mouth or throat sores or ulcers
- Pain, redness, swelling or irritation at the injection site
- Slow or irregular heartbeat
- Tingling, pain or numbness of the hands or feet. **Glutamine (a health supplement) 3gm three times a day may help prevent this problem.**

The following side effects do not usually require medical attention, but if they continue or are bothersome please report them to Dr. Palchak or his nurses.

- Diarrhea
- Hair loss (**alopecia**) can occur with Taxol. It can include loss of eyebrows, lashes, and pubic hair. **Your hair will grow back after the Taxol treatment ends.**
- Muscle or joint aches and pains may happen a few days after your Taxol treatment.
- Nausea/vomiting
- Flushing
- Lower back pain
- Sweating



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*Rare or uncommon:*

- Chest pain/difficulty breathing/wheezing

***OTHER THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TAXOL***

**During infusions** of Taxol there is a risk of an allergic reaction. Tell your nurse or physician if you begin to have a **hard time breathing**, feel **lightheaded**, or develop a **rash** with **itching** during your infusion of Taxol.

**If you have any dental work done, tell your dentist you are receiving Taxol.**

**If you are going to have surgery, tell your health care professional that you are receiving Taxol.**