

# TAXOL<sup>®</sup> Fact Sheet

## *Paclitaxel*

Information in this fact sheet is meant to assist you in making decisions about your treatment. Always make medication decisions in consultation with your health team.

Name:	TAXOL <sup>®</sup> ( <i>paclitaxel</i> )
What is Taxol <sup>®</sup> used for?	<p>Taxol<sup>®</sup> is a chemotherapy used to treat cancer of the ovary, the breast, non- small cell cancer of the lung, Karposi's Sarcoma and prostate cancer.</p> <p>Taxol<sup>®</sup> may be used alone or in combination with other anticancer agents.</p> <p>Taxol<sup>®</sup> is not recommended for use in children as its safety and effectiveness in patients under 18 years of age has not been established.</p>
What does Taxol <sup>®</sup> look like?	Taxol <sup>®</sup> is a clear liquid originally derived from the Yew tree.
How is Taxol <sup>®</sup> given?	<p>Taxol<sup>®</sup> is administered into the vein (intravenous) in a hospital clinic. The dose is worked out based on your body weight and height and dose may vary from person to person.</p> <p>Taxol<sup>®</sup> only can be administered by a doctor or a nurse. Administration will usually occur at three week intervals. The administration of Taxol<sup>®</sup> requires all patients to be given premedication prior to Taxol<sup>®</sup>.</p>
What are the common side effects?	<p><b>Tell your healthcare provider immediately if you have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• severe stomach pain</li><li>• severe diarrhoea.</li></ul> <p><b>The most common side effects of Taxol<sup>®</sup> include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• low red blood cell count (anemia), feeling weak or tired</li><li>• hair loss</li><li>• numbness, tingling, or burning in your hands or feet (neuropathy)</li><li>• joint and muscle pain</li><li>• nausea and vomiting</li><li>• hypersensitivity reaction – trouble breathing; sudden swelling of your face, lips, tongue, throat, or trouble swallowing; hives (raised bumps) or rash</li><li>• diarrhoea</li><li>• mouth or lip sores (mucositis)</li><li>• infections – if you have a fever (temperature above 38°C) or any other signs of infection, tell your healthcare provider immediately</li><li>• swelling of your hands, face, or feet</li><li>• bleeding events</li><li>• irritation at the injection site</li><li>• low blood pressure (hypotension).</li></ul>

<p>What are the common side effects? (Continue)</p>	<p>These are not all the possible side effects of Taxol®. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.</p> <p>Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or that do not go away.</p>
<p>What are the less common side effects?</p>	<p>Warning: Taxol® (paclitaxel) should be administered under the supervision of a physician experienced in the use of cancer chemotherapeutic agents. Appropriate management of complications is possible only when adequate diagnostic and treatment facilities are readily available.</p> <p>Anaphylaxis and severe hypersensitivity reactions characterised by difficult or laboured breathing (dyspnea) and hypotension requiring treatment, angioedema, and generalised hives (urticaria) have occurred in 2 to 4% of patients receiving <b>Taxol®</b> in clinical trials. Fatal reactions have occurred in patients despite premedication.</p> <p>Patients who experience severe hypersensitivity reactions to <b>Taxol®</b> should not be rechallenged with the drug.</p> <p>It is recommended that frequent peripheral blood cell counts be performed on all patients receiving Taxol®.</p>
<p>References</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E.R. Squibb &amp; Sons, L.L.C. May 2011, TAXOL® (paclitaxel) INJECTION (Patient Information Included), E.R. Squibb &amp; Sons, L.L.C., viewed 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013. <a href="http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=5463a60a-80fb-494c-8ab6-a0f0fc5c2928">http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=5463a60a-80fb-494c-8ab6-a0f0fc5c2928</a></li> <li>• Macmillan 2011, Paclitaxel (Taxol®), Macmillan Cancer Support 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2011, viewed 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013. <a href="http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Cancertreatment/Treatmenttypes/Chemotherapy/Individualdrugs/Mitoxantrone.aspx">http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Cancertreatment/Treatmenttypes/Chemotherapy/Individualdrugs/Mitoxantrone.aspx</a></li> <li>• TGA Consumer Medical Information (CMI), Nov 2012, Taxol®, Therapeutic Goods Administration Nov 2012, Canberra, viewed 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013. <a href="https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/ebs/picmi/picmirepository.nsf/pdf?OpenAgent&amp;id=CP-2011-CMI-01525-3">https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/ebs/picmi/picmirepository.nsf/pdf?OpenAgent&amp;id=CP-2011-CMI-01525-3</a></li> </ul>

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