

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Albumin Bound Paclitaxel (Abraxane): a drug to treat your cancer.

How will you get this drug? A Cancer Center nurse will give this drug to you through an IV or your port.

What should I avoid while receiving Albumin Bound Paclitaxel (Abraxane)?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do NOT use Echinacea. • Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking <i>albumin bound paclitaxel (abraxane)</i>.

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu. • Wash your hands often. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report signs of bleeding or bruising. • Avoid taking aspirin or aspirin products unless your doctor tells you to take it. • Use soft toothbrush. • Use electric razor. • Talk to your doctor before any scheduled medical or dental procedures. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Severe headache. ○ Blood in stools or urine. ○ Bleeding for a long period. ○ Uncontrolled bleeding. ○ Bruising.
Lower than normal red blood cells Anemia	Call you doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shortness of breath with activity ○ fatigue ○ dizziness ○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ headache

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Changes in heart rhythm or increase in heart rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your doctor right away if you have the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ Feeling dizzy or faint • Your EKG will be monitored. • Some medicines can affect your heart beat. Your nurse will give you a list of medicines to avoid (QT prolongation). • Tell your doctor if you take any heart or blood pressure medicines.
Fluid retention/swelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluid may build up in the lining of your lungs, the sac around your heart, or your stomach. • Do not stand for long periods of time. • Keep your legs elevated when sitting or lying down. • Avoid eating salty foods, which can increase swelling. • Avoid wearing tight-fitting clothes and shoes. • Weigh yourself daily. • Call your doctor right away if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ notice swelling in your body, especially in your hands, legs or feet. ○ shortness of breath or trouble breathing ○ have a dry cough ○ have chest pain when taking a deep breath. ○ gain 5 pounds or more in one week.
Hair loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your nurse about a wig or other options. • Ask about options to help decrease hair loss. • Hair will grow back 1-3 months after stopping chemotherapy. •
Skin rash or itching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use moisturizing lotions to keep skin hydrated after bathing. • Use tepid water, rather than hot water. • Wear loose-fitting cotton clothing • Use over-the-counter anti-inflammation and anti-itch creams (hydrocortisone cream or diphenhydramine) • Apply cool, wet cloth to soothe skin • Avoid using perfumes and cologne. • Avoid rubbing and scratching • Drink water and non-caffeine beverages. • Notify your doctor of rash, itching or swelling. This may occur on the face and can be around your eyes.
Nausea/vomiting Decreased appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you. • Eat smaller, frequent meals. • Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure). • A dietitian is available to talk with you.

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Skin reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your doctor right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a skin rash that bothers you or does not go away ○ acne ○ redness, swelling, peeling, or tenderness of hands or feet ○ any skin redness, itching, rash or blisters that ooze or peel ○ areas of skin color loss • Skin problems, such as, redness or warmth of your skin, rash or eczema may happen. • Use a moisturizing cream free from alcohol, perfume or dye at least twice daily. • When outside, use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun. • Choose mild soaps.
Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep well hydrated with water or fluids. • Take over the counter anti-diarrhea medicine (Immodium A-D™ or loperamide HCL). Use the “<i>Helpful Tips for Diarrhea after Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy</i>” instruction sheet. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than 4 loose stools in 24 hours ○ A fever of 100.4° or higher ○ bad stomach pain or cramps ○ dizziness or feel faint ○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)
Liver problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab results will be monitored. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dark urine (tea colored) ○ severe right sided stomach pain ○ light colored stools ○ bruising or if you start to bleed easily ○ yellowing of skin or eyes ○ severe nausea or throwing up ○ unexplained weight gain ○ your belly feels big or bloated
Fatigue or weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be more tired than usual or have less energy. • Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed. • Try to do some activity every day. • Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic. • Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.
Bone, muscle, joint pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use pain prescription as directed. Notify your doctor if the pain is uncontrolled.

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Neuropathy Numbness or tingling in hands or feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the doctor if this occurs or worsens. • Be careful because you may not feel an injury to your hands or feet that have reduced feeling or numbness. • Check areas that are numb for redness or open sores. Do this every day. • Apply cream or lotion to your hands and feet. • Avoid wearing tight footwear. • Avoid standing for long periods of time. • May continue even after treatment has stopped. • These nerve problems can get worse the more times you get this drug. • Sometimes, these nerve problems have not gone back to normal.
Fever/shivering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink caffeine free fluids to stay well hydrated. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
<i>Albumin bound paclitaxel (Abraxane) will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier. • Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away. • Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens. • Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water. • You may use the same toilet that you normally use. • If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet • Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet. • It is safe to hug and kiss.
Avoid pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away. • Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 6 months after stopping this drug. • If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 6 months after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away. • May cause fertility problems.

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects:	What to do:
Heart problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 911 or go to the Emergency Room right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ Trouble breathing or shortness of breath ○ Chest discomfort • Call your doctor right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased or unexplained cough ○ Swelling in feet or legs ○ Sudden weight gain of more than 3 pounds in a day.
Stinging or burning if drug gets out of vein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your nurse right away if you have redness, burning, pain, swelling, or leaking of fluid where the drug is going into your body. • The drug can cause severe damage to the tissue at the IV site.
Hepatitis B	Your doctor will do blood tests to check for Hepatitis B before starting <i>Albumin Bound Paclitaxel (Abraxane)</i> and monitor you throughout your treatment.
Serious allergic reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the nurse right away for unusual feelings, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ hot or flushed face and neck ○ fever ○ chills ○ pain in the abdomen or back ○ trouble breathing or wheezing ○ chest tightness ○ swelling of your face, lips, or tongue ○ a rash ○ itching ○ hives ○ cough ○ runny or stuffy nose • Call 911 and go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms after you return home
Vision changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ change in eyesight. ○ loss of sight ○ Uncontrolled eye movements ○ Seeing flashes of light ○ Blurry vision ○ Light hurting your eyes ○ New or increased floaters • Usually goes away after treatment is stopped.

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Less common side effects:	What to do:
Inflammation of lungs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call your doctor right away if you have:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Severe shortness of breath or trouble breathing○ New cough or a cough that gets worse○ More production of mucus (sputum). Can be clear, white, yellowish-gray or green in color○ Wheezing○ Extreme tiredness○ Chest pain○ Fever of 100.4° or higher○ Chills• Your doctor may place you on steroids.
These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.	