

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Docetaxel (taxotere): a drug to treat your cancer.

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

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.
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
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.
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.
Diarrhea or Colitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep well hydrated with water or fluids recommended by your care team. • Take over the counter anti-diarrhea medicine (Immodium A-D™ or loperamide HCL). Use “Helpful Hints for Diarrhea after Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy” . • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ severe abdominal pain ○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky) ○ more than 4 loose stools a day ○ nausea ○ A fever of 100.4° or higher

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
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.
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. • Your hair may not grow back.
Nail changes/toxicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darkening and ridging of fingernails may happen. It will go away when the treatment is finished. • Your nails and cuticles may become red, sore, swollen, and brittle. Your nails may separate from the nail bed and your nail may fall off. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ redness, swelling, peeling, or tenderness around nails of hands or feet ○ any skin redness, itching, or rash ○ draining fluid from your nail ○ a hard time walking or using your hands ○ chills or a fever of 100.4° F or higher • Take care of your nails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep nails trimmed and clean ○ Do not cut nails too short ○ Do not bite, pick or tear at your nails or cuticles ○ Do not cut your cuticles ○ Apply moisturizing lotion often ○ Avoid using hot water ○ Avoid standing for long times ○ Wear gloves to wash dishes ○ Wear comfortable shoes with soft cotton socks to prevent injuries ○ Do not use artificial nails
Severe skin and mouth reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a moisturizing cream free from alcohol, perfume or dye at least twice a day. • When outside, use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun. • Choose mild soaps. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever) or a rash ○ red or irritated eyes ○ sores in your mouth, throat, nose or eyes

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Fluid retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluid may build up in the lining of your lungs, the sac around your heart, or your stomach. • Your doctor may prescribe a steroid (dexamethasone) by mouth for you. Take as directed, starting one day before treatment and two days after treatment. Take in the morning with food. • Call your doctor right away if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ notice swelling in your body, especially in your legs or feet. ○ shortness of breath or trouble breathing ○ have a dry cough ○ have chest pain when taking a deep breath. ○ gain 3 pounds or more in one week.
Stomatitis Sores in your throat or mouth (stomatitis) may occur a few days or a few weeks after medicine is given.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let your nurse or doctor know if you have sores in your mouth. • Avoid spicy, hot or cold foods. • Avoid using tobacco products, alcohol, and mouthwash that contain alcohol. • Mix 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda and 1/8 teaspoon of salt with 2 cups of water. Rinse your mouth and gargle the mixture at least four times daily, especially after you eat. Do not swallow this mixture, just rinse and spit. • Use a soft toothbrush. • Your doctor may prescribe a special mouthwash for you to use.
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 if you are tired.
Neurologic problems Encephalopathy or neurologic toxicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your doctor right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ change in mental status ○ confusion or disorientation ○ loss of balance ○ difficulty walking or change in how you walk ○ passed out ○ coma ○ seizures ○ speech problems like slurred speech ○ abnormal eye movements • Avoid driving, doing hazardous work or activities, or operating heavy or dangerous machinery during treatment.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Breathing problems	<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 ○ labored and unusually rapid breathing ○ new or dry cough or a cough that gets worse ○ confusion ○ extreme tiredness ○ wheezing ○ chest pain • Call 911 if you cannot catch your breath or stop coughing.
Fever/shivering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink non-caffeine 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>Docetaxel</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.	<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.

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Less common side effects that may happen	<u>What to do:</u>
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"> ○ A change in eyesight. ○ Loss of eyesight. ○ Uncontrolled eye movements. ○ Seeing flashes of light. ○ Blurry vision. ○ Light hurting your eyes. ○ New or increased floaters.
<p>Increased risk for bone marrow problems or another cancer Leukemia</p> <p>Increased risk for a cancer that begins in infection-fighting cells of the immune system Lymphoma</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your doctor about your concerns. • Be sure your family doctor knows you have received chemotherapy medicine.
Liver problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab results will be checked. • 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

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Less common side effects that may happen	<u>What to do:</u>
New Primary cancers	Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ unexplained weight loss ○ fever ○ extreme tiredness that doesn't get better with rest ○ unexplained pain ○ changes in bowel or bladder habits ○ sores that do not heal ○ unusual bleeding or discharge ○ trouble swallowing ○ cough or hoarseness that does not go away
Tumor Lysis Syndrome Caused by rapid tumor cell death	Call your doctor right away if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ have a fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ pass out ○ have trouble passing urine ○ have muscle weakness or cramps ○ have an upset stomach ○ are throwing up ○ have loose stools ○ fever ○ chills ○ confusion ○ shortness of breath ○ seizure ○ dark or cloudy urine ○ unusual tiredness
These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.	