

Paclitaxel Protein-bound (Abraxane[®])

Paclitaxel is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat breast cancer and other cancers.

How Is It Given?

- Paclitaxel protein-bound is given as a liquid by an intravenous (IV) line.

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- hair loss (occurs two to three weeks after treatment is started)
- lowered white blood cell and red blood cell counts
- infection or fever
- nausea (feel like throwing up) and vomiting (vomiting)
- numbness, tingling or burning in the hands, feet or both
- fast or slow heartbeat
- tiredness and/or weakness
- stomach upset and diarrhea
- joint and muscle pain (it occurs from 2 to 3 days up to 1 week after a treatment)

- changes in blood tests that measure your how well your liver works (occurs while you are receiving this medicine)

Less common:

- allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the throat, trouble breathing, chest pain, uneven heartbeat, dizziness)
- mouth sores
- cough
- trouble breathing
- bruising or bleeding
- vision changes

Special Notes

- Tell your nurse right away if you have any stinging or burning at the IV site.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Paclitaxel protein-bound can cause birth defects if used by a pregnant woman or her partner while she is pregnant. Talk about birth control with your doctor. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine.
- Some medicines may interact with this medicine. Make sure to tell your doctor all of the medicines you are taking. Include prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, herbals and natural products.

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- an allergic reaction:
 - itching or hives
 - swelling in your face or hands
 - swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat
 - chest tightness
 - trouble breathing
- high fever (more than 100.4 F), chills, cough, sore throat or body aches
- numbness, tingling or burning of your hands or feet
- severe stomach pain
- nausea, vomiting or diarrhea you cannot control
- blistering, peeling, red skin
- black stools or dark-colored urine
- mouth sores
- bleeding or bruising.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.