

Docetaxel (Taxotere[®])

Docetaxel is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat many types of cancer.

How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous)

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:

- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- loss of appetite
- lowered white blood cell counts (occurs 1 week after treatment) and red blood cell counts
- hair loss
- joint pain, muscle pain or both, or weakness
- fatigue
- mouth sores
- skin rash or itching

Less common:

- allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, flushing of skin, low-back pain, low blood pressure)
- diarrhea
- fluid retention (shortness of breath, swelling of ankles or feet)
- numbness, tingling or both in the feet, hands, lower legs or face

Special Notes

- Before your docetaxel treatment, you will be given steroids to take by mouth. It is important that you follow the schedule and not miss any doses. If you do forget to take a dose, you must tell your doctor or nurse before your treatment.
- Some medicines interact with docetaxel. Let your doctor know if you are taking any of the following:
 - cyclosporine (Sandimmune[®])
 - ketoconazole (Nizoral[®])
 - itraconazole (Sporanox[®])
 - erythromycin (Erythrocin[®]).
- You may have changes in your menstrual cycle or sperm count. Discuss birth control measures with your doctor. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine.

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- fever, chills or sore throat
- skin rash or hives
- numb or swollen hands or feet
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- shortness of breath.

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

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