

Paclitaxel: Every 2 Weeks

Every 2 weeks paclitaxel (Taxol®) is a chemotherapy regimen or treatment plan that your doctor prescribed for the treatment of your cancer.

How is this regimen given?

- Paclitaxel (Taxol®) is given into a vein (IV) over 3 hours.
- This chemotherapy is given every 14 days.
- Your time in infusion will be longer than the drug administration times depending on other medications/fluids given.

Are there other medications I will receive with this regimen?

Yes. You will receive other medications to help prevent possible side effects of the chemotherapy.

1. Medicines to prevent allergic reactions will be given before you receive your chemotherapy.
 - Dexamethasone (Decadron®)
 - Ranitidine (Zantac®) or Famotidine (Pepcid®)
 - Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) or Cetirizine (Zyrtec®)
2. Medicines to treat nausea will be available while you receive your chemotherapy if needed.
3. You will receive a shot to support your immune system after chemotherapy. You will be given one of these medications starting the day after your chemotherapy:
 - a. Filgrastim (Neupogen®) is given daily
 - b. Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®) is given once per cycle

What side effects can occur with this regimen?

This information does not cover all possible side effects, but highlights the more common side effects. If you experience other side effects not listed within this document, please contact your clinic. Remember, side effects vary from person to person, depending on the situation.

Fertility Concerns

Cancer treatment may affect your fertility. You should discuss any concerns with your doctor **Before** beginning treatment.

Possible Side Effects During Infusion	What Can I Do?	When to Alert your Nurse
Infusion Allergic Reactions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alert your nurse Immediately if you experience shortness of breath, chills, flushing, sweating, rash, face/throat swelling, itching or dizziness during your infusion.
Possible Side Effects During Infusion	What Can I Do?	When to Alert your Nurse
Extravasation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During infusion, notify nurse Immediately if you notice any pain, swelling, or irritation or fluid leaking around IV site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you experience redness, swelling or pain at the IV site after infusion.

Common Side Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call the Clinic
Peripheral Neuropathy Numbness/tingling in the hands/fingers, feet/toes, legs. Can be long-lasting but	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the clinic at your next visit, as this can worsen with additional treatments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discomfort that affects your ability to work or perform normal activities (i.e. unable to grasp a pen/pencil, unable to button your shirt, or unable to feel the

Common Side Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call the Clinic
improve slowly over time.		bottoms of your feet making walking difficult).
Fatigue/Tiredness/Weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't over-exert yourself. • Rest when you're tired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to perform normal daily activities.
Bone/Joint Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use pain medication as recommended by the clinic. • Rest when tired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to perform normal daily activities.
Heartburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take TUMS® 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours as needed for heartburn pain (follow directions on package label). • Avoid acidic foods and beverages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartburn pain that interrupts sleeping or eating.
Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay well-hydrated. • Take Loperamide (Imodium®) 4 mg at onset of diarrhea and up to 2 mg every 2 hours until diarrhea-free for 12 hours. • Loperamide maximum dosing = 8 mg in 24 hours unless other dosing directed by clinic. • Avoid fatty, greasy or spicy foods that may increase diarrhea. • Eat smaller, more frequent meals/snacks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to stay hydrated (not able to drink 8-10 cups of liquid per day) - Contact Immediately. • Multiple episodes of diarrhea unrelieved by anti-diarrheal medication like Loperamide (if no response in 24 hours of treatment). • Waking in the night with diarrhea or more than 4 episodes of diarrhea in 24 hours. • Feeling dizzy when standing.
Nail Changes (Discoloration, cracking or loss of finger and toe nails).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use gloves when gardening and washing dishes to prevent infections. • Use mild-hand soaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs or symptoms of infected nails including red cuticles or pain.

Common Side Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call the Clinic
Nail Changes, continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use nail polish to strengthen your nails. • Use non-acetone nail polish remover. 	
Hair Loss (Alopecia) Temporary total body hair loss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use head coverings to protect against sun and cold temperatures. • Ask for a prescription if you plan to purchase a wig. 	
Mouth Sores (Mucositis) Sores in the mouth, throat /or on the lips which may be painful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a soft toothbrush. • Rinse 3-4 times daily with a solution of 1/4 tsp. baking soda + 1/8 tsp. salt in 1 cup warm water. • Try Biotene® products. • Use pain medications as prescribed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to stay hydrated (not able to drink 8-10 cups of liquid per day)-Contact Immediately. • Pain not controlled by medications. • Unable to eat.
Increased Eye Tearing (watery eyes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect your eyes from sun and wind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness, irritation or pain in your eye(s).
Late Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call the Clinic
Fertility Concerns Normal menstrual cycle and sperm production may stop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not assume you cannot get pregnant or cause a pregnancy. • Use a contraceptive method during treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss fertility options with your doctor before beginning treatment.

When and How To Call Your Doctor

For Medical Emergencies, Call 911

Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm Call 1-734_____

After 5pm, weekends and holidays, call the page operator at 1-734-936-6267.

Ask to speak to the doctor on call:

- Adult Hematology/Oncology
- Other:_____

There are certain times when you should call your doctor about signs and symptoms you have during or after your treatment. It is a good idea to talk with your doctor about which times are looked at as an emergency and when an office call is right.

When should I call the doctor?

- Any symptom that concerns you or possible side effects linked to your medications, or as directed by your doctor
- A fever of 100.5° Fahrenheit, or greater
- Bleeding or unusual bruising
- Burning and/or pain when urinating
- Constipation (no bowel movement in 2-3 days)
- Diarrhea (loose, watery stools) four or more watery stools in 24 hours
- Nausea, vomiting or if you cannot keep down any liquids
- Pain not controlled by your current medications
- Redness, pain, sores or a white coating in your mouth
- Shaking and chills
- Unusual cough, sore throat, lung congestion or shortness of breath

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