

Warning

This fact sheet aims to let you know the side effects most commonly seen following the administration of your treatment. Please note that when you take any medication, there is a possibility that it causes rare side effects and it is difficult to predict which patients will be affected.

General information for patient Weekly nab-paclitaxel (Abraxane®)

Date: January 2019

Revision date:

Medication	Administration
Nab-paclitaxel	Intravenous infusion over 30 minutes on days 1, 8 and 15
<i>Cycle repeated every 4 weeks</i>	

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General Information associated with your treatment

- › This medication is used to prevent the multiplication of abnormal cells and destroy them.
- › A **blood test** will be done prior to every treatment. Depending on the results and side effects of the previous treatment, the dose of the medications might be adjusted or the treatment might be delayed.
- › Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- › Your **sense of taste may be altered**. Enhance foods with *fines herbes* or lemon juice. Eating fruits and non sugared candies, chewing non-sugared gums, etc., may mask the metallic taste.
- › **Alcohol** (in small quantities) is permitted and will not affect the efficacy of the treatments.
- › You can have an **active sexual** life during your treatments. However, a decrease in your sexual drive may occur during this period. This may also be influenced by different factors (fatigue, stress, etc.)
- › In **pre-menopausal female patients** chemotherapy may cause irregularities or cessation of the **menstrual cycle** during treatment. The menstrual cycle may restart or return to normal after the end of treatment. The menstrual cycle may also stop permanently. However, a pregnancy remains possible and chemotherapy administered during pregnancy may harm the embryo. A **birth control method** is strongly recommended during treatment. Breast-feeding is contra-indicated during treatment.
- › For **male patients**, the sperm count may be affected and negative effects on the embryo may occur. In fact, the production of spermatozooids may be reduced or completely absent during treatments. In certain patients, this reduction of fertility may be permanent, may get better or return to normal after the treatments have stopped. This reduction of **fertility** does not prevent erection or sexual activity. A pregnancy remains possible. If you have sex with a woman of childbearing age it is strongly recommended to use a method of **contraception** during the treatment.
- › Consult your doctor or pharmacist before you take other medications (even over the counter medications available without a prescription) or **natural health products** or if you need to receive a **vaccine**. These may provoke an interaction with your treatment and diminish its efficacy or increase side effects.
- › Follow the instructions given by your cancer center about the right way to handle and dispose of biological fluids (for example urine, stools) in order to protect the environment and your relatives.
- › Be sure to always have on hand the complete list of your medications, dietary supplements, vitamins and other natural health products. Give it to your doctor and your pharmacist. It is important to make them aware of any change.

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Adverse effects and their management

Adverse effects	Management
Nausea , usually light, may occur mainly on the same day and the day following your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Before your treatment, medication to prevent nausea may be prescribed. At home, you may also have to take medication for 1 or 2 days or more, as needed.› Contact a member of your healthcare team if your medication does not relieve your nausea.
Depending on the individual, a partial or total hair loss may occur. In general, this happens 2 to 3 weeks after the start of the treatment. However, don't worry; your hair will grow back after treatments have ended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Use gentle shampoo.› Avoid brushing hair vigorously.› Avoid hair spray, dyes and perms.
A decrease in the white blood cells will occur following treatment. You may be at higher risk of infections during this period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Wash your hands often.› During this period, avoid coming into contact with people who have contagious diseases.› Consult your doctor or go immediately to the Emergency Room if you have a fever 38,3 °C (101°F) once or 38 °C (100,4 °F) twice an hour apart.› Contact a member of your healthcare team quickly if you notice any signs of infection (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, pain while urinating...).› In case of fever, do not take acetaminophen (Ex: Tylenol®, Atasol®) and anti-inflammatory medication (Ex : Motrin®, Advil®, Aleve®, ...).
You may experience fatigue during your treatments. This is usually only temporary and may be related to different reasons (medication, stress, the disease).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Maintain a good level of activity but rest when you feel the need to.
Leg weakness, numbness or tingling of hand and feet may occur. These symptoms usually increase with the number of treatments given.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If you experience these symptoms, speak to a member of your healthcare team at your next visit.

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You may experience muscle and bone pain that may occur a few days following your treatment.	› If this occurs, speak to a member of your healthcare team who will recommend analgesics.
You may sometimes experience diarrhea .	› Drink lots of liquids unless otherwise instructed by your doctor. › Please contact a member of your healthcare team if you have significant diarrhea (more than 3 loose stools per day) for more than 24 hours. › If you have with diarrhea with fever, contact immediately a member of your health care team.
Pain, irritation, swelling or a burning sensation at the injection site may occur during treatment.	› Immediately advise your nurse if you experience this malaise during infusion.
Rare adverse effects that can be severe or serious to communicate quickly	
You may experience allergic reactions associated with nab-paclitaxel during your treatment such as rash, redness, itchiness, swelling, shortness of breath.	› Notify the nurse immediately if you have difficulty breathing or if you experience swelling of the tongue or throat during treatment.

Special consideration

You must avoid consuming **grapefruit**, Seville orange, starfruit, pomelo, pomegranate or foods containing them because of an interaction that could increase the side effects of nab-paclitaxel.

Pharmacist: _____

Phone: _____ from _____ h to _____ h (Monday to Friday)