

# Cabazitaxel

Names	The generic drug name is cabazitaxel (ka baz i tax' el). The brand name is Jevtana®. There may be other names for this medication.
How is Cabazitaxel Given?	This medication is given by infusion into a vein (intravenous or IV) over 1 hour. The infusion is usually given every 3 weeks.
What is it Used For?	Cabazitaxel is given with prednisone to treat prostate cancer that has spread (metastasized), has not responded to hormone treatment (hormone-refractory), and that has already been treated with other chemotherapy medications. Cabazitaxel may be prescribed for other uses.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have had an allergic reaction to cabazitaxel or polysorbate 80</li><li>• have or have ever had liver or kidney disease</li><li>• are taking any herbal products, especially St. John's wort</li><li>• have been treated with radiation therapy</li><li>• are unable to eat a healthy diet</li><li>• have any type of infection</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.</b></p>
How Does it Work?	<p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide (reproduce) without control. The faster cells divide, the more likely it is that chemo will attack them. Unfortunately, normal cells that divide quickly are also affected. These normal cells will eventually grow back and be healthy. During treatment, however, this may cause side effects. Your chemo schedule is based upon your cancer type, how fast the cancer cells multiply, and the time of the cells' reproductive cycle when each medication is the most likely to be effective. This is why chemotherapy is typically given in cycles.</p> <p>Cabazitaxel is in a class of drugs known as microtubule inhibitors. It interferes with the cell division. If cells can't reproduce, they die.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- **Low blood counts:** Abnormally low levels of red blood cells (RBCs), white blood cells (WBCs), or platelets, which increases your risk of anemia/ fatigue, infection, and bleeding
- **Fatigue, weakness**
- **Diarrhea (more common), constipation (less common)**
- **Nausea (more common), vomiting (less common)**
- **Taste changes** (foods taste different to you)
- **Joint and/or back pain**
- **Peripheral neuropathy:** Numbness, burning, or tingling in the hands, arms, feet, or legs
- **Hair loss**
- **Heartburn, decreased appetite, belly pain**

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Stay well hydrated in the days before and after your chemo. Drink 2-3 quarts of water every day unless your doctor tells you to limit your fluids. Fluids help prevent dehydration and constipation. Try to drink a variety of fluids to help provide the calories, sodium (salt), and other electrolytes your body needs.
- **Prevent infections:** Stay away from crowds or people with colds, flu, or other infections. Talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations, immunizations, or flu shots. Wash your hands often.
- **Prevent bleeding:** Be careful when handling sharp objects. Stay away from rough sports or other situations where you could be bruised or injured. Use an electric razor. Be careful when using a toothbrush or dental floss (your doctor may recommend other ways to clean your teeth and gums).
- **Fatigue:** Take rest periods throughout the day, try to limit your activities, eat well, and stay out of bed as much as possible to stay strong.
- **Nausea:** To help prevent nausea, avoid fried, spicy, and/or fatty foods on the days you receive chemo and for 2-3 days afterwards. Eating small, frequent meals may help. If you feel nauseous, try foods and drinks that are 'easy on the stomach' or made you feel better when you were sick in the past. These generally include bland foods, ginger ale, dry crackers, and toast.
- **Diarrhea:** Use anti-diarrheal medicines such as loperamide (Imodium<sup>®</sup>), which is available OTC as 2mg tablets. When diarrhea starts, take 2 tablets (4 mg). Take 1 tablet (2mg) after each loose bowel movement. **Do not take more than 8 tablets (16 mg) in a day.** If you still have diarrhea after 8 tablets, please call the clinic.

- **Constipation:** Drink a lot. add high fiber foods to your diet and, if possible, keep moving throughout the day. Check with your doctor or nurse before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- **Taste changes:** Experiment with food. Sometimes adding a bit of spice or sweetness helps.
- **Aches and pains:** Check with your doctor before using any over-the-counter or herbal products for these or any side effects.
- **Peripheral neuropathy:**
  - Stay as active as you can to help keep your muscles working. If you exercise in a gym, tell the instructor that you have peripheral neuropathy and ask for instructions.
  - Foot and hand massages may help relieve stiffness. After the massage, remember to clean the lotions and creams off your hands and feet.
  - Protect your heads and feet, particularly when handling hot items or when weather is severe. Use oven mitts, gloves, socks, and shoes
  - Have someone check the water temperature before you take a shower, wash dishes, etc. or use a thermometer or a part of your body that is not affected by PN.
  - Get rid of throw rugs and other obstacles that can increase your risk of falling or tripping.
  - Ask about balance training and/or physical or occupational therapy.
- **Hair loss:** Some people cut their hair for their own comfort once it begins to fall out. Hair will grow back once chemo is over but it may have a different color or texture. Patients can get a wig in the Resource Center for Patients and Families, call **716-845-1729**.
- **Mouth care** is very important. Rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ tsp of baking soda in 8 oz of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with soft toothbrush. (Soften it further by running it under warm water before brushing) Avoid smoking, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol.
- **Skin care:** Use sunscreen with SPF of 30 or higher. Wear long sleeves and pants, and a hat when in the sun. Do not use tanning beds. If you develop a rash or other skin reactions, do not put anything on your skin unless you get your doctor's permission first.

When Should I  
Call the  
Doctor?

**Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- signs of infection: **Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation
- signs of an allergic reaction: Itching or hives; difficulty swallowing or breathing; swelling in your face, hands, feet, or lower legs; swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat; shortness of breath; or palpitations
- signs of dehydration: Dry mouth, dark urine, decreased urination, decreased sweating, dry skin, or sunken eyes
- unusual bruising or bleeding: bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm /mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae)

**Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:**

- nausea that is not relieved by prescribed medication, is accompanied by severe belly pain, or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- vomiting more than 5 times in 24 hours
- fatigue that interferes with your ability to care for yourself

What Else  
Should I Know  
About  
Cabazitaxel?

- You must take prednisone every day during your cabazitaxel treatment. Take it exactly as prescribed. Tell your doctor if you missed a dose of prednisone.
- If you are having any surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are receiving cabazitaxel.
- Talk to your doctor about eating grapefruit and drinking grapefruit juice.
- Keep all your appointments with your doctor and the laboratory.
- In rare cases, cabazitaxel may cause a *severe allergic reaction* during infusion, particularly with the first 2 doses. We will be watch you carefully. Tell your nurse immediately if you have any of the signs of an allergic reaction listed above or if you feel faint, have blurred vision, or nausea. Your infusion will be stopped and your symptoms treated. You may not be able to receive cabazitaxel in the future, or you may require a lower dose.
- Cabazitaxel is usually used in men with prostate cancer. Use contraceptives and do not father a child while taking cabazitaxel. Barrier methods of contraception, such as condoms, are recommended. Pregnant women should avoid exposure to cabazitaxel.
- If you would like more information, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.