

Paclitaxel– Protein Bound

Names	The generic drug name is Paclitaxel (PAK-li-tax-el). Abraxane® is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Administered?	Paclitaxel is injected (infused) into a vein (intravenously or IV), usually in your arm, wrist, hand, or chest.
Why am I Taking Abraxane®?	Abraxane® is used to treat metastatic or recurrent breast cancer, locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, and metastatic cancer of the pancreas.
How Does it Work?	<p>Cancers are diseases in which abnormal cells reproduce uncontrollably. Your chemotherapy (chemo) is based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your cancer type and how fast the cancer cells reproduce • the phase of the cell cycle when the chemo is most effective – the resting, growing, or reproduction phases <p>With these factors in mind, your doctors create a chemo schedule to give each medication when it will do the most damage to the cancer cells. This is why chemotherapy is typically given in cycles.</p> <p>Paclitaxel is in a class of drugs known as plant alkaloids or taxanes. Abraxane® is a combination of paclitaxel and the protein, albumin. Taxol® is paclitaxel and polyoxyethylated castor oil. Each drug works differently and one cannot be substituted for the other.</p> <p>Many chemo medications, including Abraxane®, identify and attack cancer cells because they reproduce quickly. Some cells in your body normally reproduce quickly and they are likely to be damaged or destroyed by chemo. These normal cells will eventually grow back and be healthy but during treatment, you may have side effects.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have allergies to paclitaxel, albumin, medicines, or foods • have any kind of bacterial or viral infection • have or ever have had liver or heart disease • are pregnant or breastfeeding

This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.

**What Are
Some Possible
Side Effects?**

- Bone marrow depression causing low levels of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets, which can increase your risk for infection, fatigue, and bleeding
- Hair loss
- Nausea, stomach pain, vomiting, and/or diarrhea
- Numbness or tingling in your hands or feet (peripheral neuropathy)
- Mild muscle/joint pain (myalgia/arthralgia)
- Weakness, fatigue, and/or dizziness upon standing
- Mouth or throat sores
- Eye problems

**How Can I
Manage These
Side Effects**

- To help avoid infections, stay away from people with colds or other infections including contagious childhood diseases you have not had such as chickenpox and measles. Wash your hands often. Talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations, such as a flu shot.
- If you are fatigued, take rests during the day, limit your activities, and plan an activity at a time of day when you have more energy. Learn to ask for and accept help with daily chores.
- Be careful when handling sharp objects. Avoid rough sports or situations that could cause bruising/injury. Use an electric razor.
- Talk to your nurse about getting a wig before you have hair loss.
- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea or diarrhea.
- Check with your doctor **before** taking Tylenol or other over-the-counter pain relievers for muscle or joint aches.
- To avoid dizziness when rising, get up slowly and rest your feet on the floor for a few minutes before standing up.
- Mouth care is very important. To minimize mouth problems, rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with a soft toothbrush.
- Avoid smoking, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol.
- Drink at least 2-3 quarts of fluid, especially water, every 24 hours, unless your doctor tells you to limit your fluids.
- If you develop a rash, do not put anything on it unless your doctor approves it.
- If you notice that the injection site has become red, painful, or warm to the touch, put a warm cloth on the area and call your doctor.

When Should I
Call the
Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you experience:

- any sign of infection: fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher; chills; cough; sore throat; pain or burning upon urination; open skin sores; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation.
- any sign of an allergic reaction: itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing, dizziness, or palpitations
- 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)
- Pale, blistering, red, swollen, or peeling skin
- Yellowing of your skin or eyes

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- numbness or tingling in hands or feet, changes in the way you walk, clumsiness in buttoning clothes or other routine activities
- joint or muscle pain not relieved by prescribed medication
- nausea, mouth sores, or diarrhea not controlled by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- diarrhea of more than 4 stools a day or diarrhea with weakness

What Else
Should I Know
About
Abraxane®?

- If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are receiving Abraxane®.
- Talk to your doctor about eating grapefruit and drinking grapefruit juice while using this medicine.
- You should not get pregnant or father a child while receiving Abraxane® because it will harm the fetus. Use an effective method of birth control to prevent pregnancy.
- Keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory. Abraxane may cause abnormalities in your electrocardiogram (EKG), which measures the electrical activity of the heart, or in your LFTs, blood tests that measures liver function. Your doctor will monitor your heart and liver with regular testing.
- If you would like more information about protein-bound paclitaxel, talk to your doctor.