



NYUCancerInstitute

P A T I E N T I N F O R M A T I O N

The side effects listed below are those that occur most frequently. Other side effects may occur; please contact your doctor or oncology nurse to report any medical problems.

Dose _____

DOCETAXEL (Taxotere®)

Early Side Effects

- a. Hypersensitivity (allergic) reactions rarely occur. Symptoms may include a drop in blood pressure, breathing difficulty, and generalized rash. Medications will be given to counteract this effect.
- b. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea can occur but are usually mild to moderate in severity.
- c. A skin rash mainly in the hands and feet with/without itching, as well as changes in nail coloration can occur. Symptoms may be minimized by keeping extremities cool.

Late Side Effects

- a. Hair loss will occur. This loss is temporary and your hair will grow back after the drug has been discontinued.
- b. A drop in your white blood cell counts will occur 7 - 14 days after treatment. Your doctor will monitor your cell counts with regular blood draws.
- c. Fluid retention will occur. Symptoms usually include weight gain, and accumulation of fluid in the lower legs (edema). Your doctor may prescribe oral corticosteroids (dexamethasone) for several days to minimize this effect. This effect usually resolves after treatment but may increase in severity with subsequent course of therapy.
- d. Changes in nerve sensation may occur. Sensations of tingling or burning in hands, feet, and lower legs are most common. They are usually mild in severity and will resolve after treatment.