



# 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\_\_\_\_\_

### PACLITAXEL (Taxol®)

#### **Early Side Effects**

- a. Hypersensitivity reaction. This is a rare reaction with such effects as itching, flushing, decrease in blood pressure, and difficulty with breathing. To prevent this reaction your doctor has prescribed medications to be given before Taxol® therapy is started.
- b. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. These may happen rarely and are usually mild. If they do occur, additional medications will be prescribed to control these effects.
- c. You may experience peripheral neuropathy manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet. Symptoms begin 1 - 3 days after treatment and resolve in 3 - 6 months. If you experience any of these symptoms, inform your physician. You may experience joint aches and pains lasting 24 - 48 hrs. You will be instructed on medication to take to alleviate symptoms.

#### **Late Side Effects**

- a. Hair loss occurs 7 - 10 days after Taxol® therapy. Your hair will grow back once chemotherapy treatment(s) have finished.
- b. Drop in white blood cell and red blood cell counts. The maximum drop in white blood cell counts generally occurs 1 - 2 weeks after Taxol® therapy (but can occur earlier); red blood cell counts will drop several weeks later. Your physician will be checking your blood counts on a regular basis.