French Hospital Medical Center.
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, please consult your physician or call Hearst Cancer Resource Center at 805.542.6234.
For emergency, call 911.

PATIENT EDUCATION

Taxol (Paclitaxel)

SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- **Lowered Blood Counts** – This drug can temporarily lower your blood counts making you more susceptible to colds, infection, and bleeding. Lab tests may be done to monitor your blood counts.
- **Nausea/Vomiting** – is common, but usually mild. Mediation will be given to you to help control or prevent it from occurring.
- **Bone/Muscle Pain** – May occur 3-5 days after treatment. Usually controlled with Tylenol.
- **Numbness/Tingling of Hands and Feet** – usually appears after several doses.
- **Hair Loss** – is usually complete, but regrows after you finish treatment.
- **Allergic Reactions** – The nurse will stay with you during the first 15 minutes. Your blood pressure and pulse will be checked frequently during the administration. Tell your nurse if you feel an itching, tickling in your throat, wheezing, dizziness, etc.
- **Heart Changes** – This medication can affect your heart so tell your doctor or nurse if you are short of breath, increased pulse, irregular pulse, etc.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen, or white patches in your mouth or tongue.
- Signs of Bleeding: Nosebleeds that will not stop with pressure; blood in urine or stool; bleeding gums; unusual bruising; red or purple spots on your body; or a cut that longer than usual to stop bleeding.
- Any numbness or tingling in your hands and feet
- Any changes in heart beat, shortness of breath, irregular beat.
- Any changes in sensation during the administration of this drug.
- Uncontrolled nausea/vomiting or inability to eat or drink for 24 hours.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures** – are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure and tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**
- **Be sure and tell your doctor of any prior history of heart problems.**