

**Warning**

This fact sheet aims to let you know the side effects most commonly seen following the administration of your treatment. Please note that when you take any medication, there is a possibility that it causes rare side effects and it is difficult to predict which patients will be affected.

## ***General Information for Patients***

**Protocol** : Paclitaxel-carboplatin

Date: September 2003

Revision: November 2016

<b>MEDICATION</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
Paclitaxel	Intravenous infusion over 3 hours
Carboplatin	Intravenous infusion over 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the dose.
<b><i>Treatment repeated every 3 weeks</i></b>	

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## General Information associated with your treatment

- ❑ This medication is used to prevent the multiplication of abnormal cells and destroy them.
- ❑ A **blood test** will be done prior to every treatment cycle. Depending on its results and side effects of the previous treatment, the dose of medication might be adjusted or treatment might be delayed.
- ❑ **Alcohol** (in small quantities) is permitted and will not affect the efficacy of the treatments.
- ❑ Your **sense of taste may be altered**. Enhance foods with herbs or lemon juice. Eating fruits, chewing non-sugared gums, etc. may mask the metallic taste.
- ❑ Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- ❑ For the **pre-menopausal female patients**, chemotherapy may cause irregularities or cessation of the menstrual cycle during treatments. The menstrual cycle, after stopping chemotherapy, may restart or return to normal. It may also stop permanently. However, a pregnancy remains possible and a method of **contraception** is strongly recommended during treatments. Chemotherapy administered during pregnancy may harm the embryo. Breast-feeding is contra-indicated during chemotherapy.
- ❑ You can have an **active sexual** life during your treatments. However, a decrease in your sexual drive may occur during this period. This may also be influenced by different factors (fatigue, stress etc.)
- ❑ Consult your doctor or pharmacist before you take other medications (even over the counter medications available without a prescription) or natural products. These may provoke an interaction with your treatment and diminish its efficacy or increase side effects.
- ❑ Follow the instructions given by your cancer center about the right way to handle and dispose of body fluids (for example urine, stools) in order to protect the environment and your relatives.
- ❑ Be sure to always have at hand the complete list of your medications, dietary supplements, vitamins and other natural health products. Give it to you doctor and your pharmacist. It is important to make them aware of any change.

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<b>ADVERSE EFFECTS</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT</b>
Moderate <b>nausea</b> and vomiting may occur mainly on the same day and the day following your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You will be prescribed medication to prevent nausea to be taken prior to treatment. After the treatment, at home, you will take medication as needed for 1 or 2 days, or more, depending on your reaction.</li><li>• Communicate with your doctor or pharmacist if you have nausea or vomiting that is not relieved by medication.</li></ul>
<b>Total loss of body hair</b> will occur, in general, 2-3 weeks after the treatment. However, don't worry, your hair will grow back after the treatments have ended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a gentle shampoo.</li><li>• Avoid brushing hair vigorously in order to slow down the hair loss.</li></ul>
A decrease in the <b>white blood cells</b> will occur 1 week following treatment and may persist for about 10 days. You may be at higher risk to contact infections during this period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash your hands often.</li><li>• During this period, avoid coming into contact with people who have contagious diseases.</li><li>• Quickly contact a member of your healthcare team if you notice any signs of infection (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, pain while urinating...).</li><li>• Consult your doctor or go immediately to the Emergency Room if you have a fever 38,3 °C (101°F) once or 38 °C (100.4 °F) twice an hour apart.</li><li>• In case of fever, do not to take acetaminophen (Ex. Tylenol<sup>®</sup>, Atasol<sup>®</sup>) and anti-inflammatory medication (Ex : Motrin<sup>®</sup>, Advil<sup>®</sup>, Aleve<sup>®</sup>).</li></ul>

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A decrease in <b>platelets</b> will occur a few weeks following treatment. You may bleed more easily than you normally do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a tooth brush with soft bristles.</li> <li>• Check with your pharmacist before taking medications with Aspirin<sup>®</sup>, ibuprofen or other anti-inflammatory drugs.</li> <li>• Consult a member of your healthcare team if you bruise more easily than you normally do or if you have a tendency to bleed easily from the nose or the gums.</li> </ul>
You may experience a decrease of <b>red blood cells</b> following your treatment. This phenomenon is called <b>anemia</b> and is characterised by signs of fatigue, pale color, dizziness and shortness of breath.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep active but respect signs of fatigue your body gives you; rest when you feel the need to.</li> <li>• If you notice one or any of these effects, contact us.</li> </ul>
<b>Leg weakness, numbness or tingling</b> of hand and feet may occur. This phenomenon usually increases with the number of treatments received.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If these side effects impair your normal daily activities, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.</li> </ul>
You may experience <b>allergic reactions</b> associated with paclitaxel during your treatment (cutaneous eruption, redness, itchiness, shortness of breath)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medication to prevent allergic reactions will be prescribed prior to treatment.</li> <li>• Notify the nurse immediately if you have difficulty breathing or if you experience swelling of the tongue or the throat during treatment.</li> </ul>
You may experience <b>muscle and bone pain</b> that may occur a few days following your treatment. These symptoms usually last for 4-7 days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If this occurs, speak to your doctor or pharmacist who will recommend analgesics.</li> </ul>
During your treatment, you may experience some <b>pain, irritation, swelling or a burning sensation at the injection site.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify your nurse immediately if you feel any of these symptoms during treatment.</li> </ul>

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**Special Considerations**

- ❑ After your treatment, it is not recommended that you drive a vehicle or perform activities requiring attention, as you might feel sleepy or dizzy.

**Pharmacist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From \_\_\_\_ h to \_\_\_\_ h (Monday to Friday)**