Arroyo Grande Community Hospital
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, **please consult your physician or call AGCH Coastal Cancer Care at 805.481.7245. For emergency, call 911.**

PATIENT EDUCATION

Taxotere (Docetaxel)

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, infections, and bleeding. Lab tests may be done to monitor your blood count.
- **Fluid Retention –** This means your body is holding extra water. If this occurs around the heart or chest, it can be life threatening. Weight gain, swelling of hands, feet, and legs may be early warning signs. May not see until the 4th or 5th treatment.
- **Hair Loss –** Hair loss will usually begin after the first treatment. This includes hair on your head, eyelashes, body hair. Will regrow once your treatment is complete.
- **Muscle/Bone Pain –** Occasionally you may have muscle and joint pain 2-5 days after receiving Taxotere. Is usually mild to moderate and controlled with Tylenol.
- **Rash –** A blotchy, hive-like rash which usually appears on the hands and feet, but may also occur on the entire body or face, is common in between treatments.
- **Nail Changes –** Color changes to fingernails and toenails may occur. In some instances, the nails may fall off. Nails will usually regrow when chemo completed.
- **Fatigue –** You may notice that you feel very tired after treatments. If fatigue is extreme or lasts longer than usual, notify your doctor.

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 takes longer than usual to stop bleeding.
- A warm sensation, tightness in your chest, or itching during Taxotere infusion or shortly after.
- Swelling of the face, hands, legs, or feet that will not go down overnight; sudden increase in weight; sudden onset of shortness of breath or chest tightness.
- A skin rash; nail changes
- Redness, pain, or swelling at site of infusion
- Extreme fatigue

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.**