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Drug NDC: 66758-0043-02
Drug Name: PACLITAXEL

What is this medicine?

PACLITAXEL (PAK li TAX el) is a chemotherapy drug. It targets fast dividing cells, like cancer cells, and causes these cells to die. This medicine is used to treat ovarian cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, and other cancers.

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your health care provider or pharmacist if you have questions.

How should I use this medicine?

This drug is given as an infusion into a vein. It is administered in a hospital or clinic by a specially trained health care professional. Talk to your pediatrician regarding the use of this medicine in children. Special care may be needed.

Overdosage: If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once. NOTE: This medicine is only for you. Do not share this medicine with others.

Where should I keep my medicine?

This drug is given in a hospital or clinic and will not be stored at home.

NOTE: This sheet is a summary. It may not cover all possible information. If you have questions about this medicine, talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or health care provider.

What should I tell my health care provider before I take this medicine?

You need to know if you have any of these conditions: -history of irregular heartbeat -liver disease -low blood counts, like low white cell, platelet, or red cell counts -lung or breathing disease, like asthma -tingling of the fingers or toes, or other nerve disorder -an unusual or allergic reaction to paclitaxel, alcohol, polyoxyethylated castor oil, other chemotherapy, other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives -pregnant or trying to get pregnant -breast-feeding

What if I miss a dose?

It is important not to miss your dose. Call your doctor or health care professional if you are unable to keep an appointment.

What should I watch for while using this medicine?

Your condition will be monitored carefully while you are receiving this medicine. You will need important blood work done while you are taking this medicine. This medicine can cause serious allergic reactions. To reduce your risk you will need to take other medicine(s) before treatment with this medicine. If you experience allergic reactions like skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, or tongue, tell your doctor or health care professional right away. In some cases, you may be given additional medicines to help with side effects. Follow all directions for their use. This drug may make you feel generally unwell. This is not uncommon, as chemotherapy can affect healthy cells as well as cancer cells. Report any side effects. Continue your course of treatment even though you feel ill unless your doctor tells you to stop. Call your doctor or health care professional for advice if you get a fever, chills or sore throat, or other symptoms of a cold or flu. Do not treat yourself. This drug decreases your body's ability to fight infections. Try to avoid being around people who are sick. This medicine may increase your risk to bruise or bleed. Call your doctor or health care professional if you notice any unusual bleeding. Be careful brushing and flossing your teeth or using a toothpick because you may get an infection or bleed more easily. If you have any dental work done, tell your dentist you are receiving this medicine. Avoid taking products that contain aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen, or ketoprofen unless instructed by your doctor. These medicines may hide a fever. Do not become pregnant while taking this medicine. Women should inform their doctor if they wish to become pregnant or think they might be pregnant. There is a potential for serious side effects to an unborn child. Talk to your health care professional or pharmacist for more information. Do not breast-feed an infant while taking this medicine. Men are advised not to father a child while receiving this medicine. This product may contain alcohol. Ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider if this medicine contains alcohol. Be sure to tell all healthcare providers you are taking this medicine. Certain medicines, like metronidazole and disulfiram, can cause an unpleasant reaction when taken with alcohol. The reaction includes flushing, headache, nausea, vomiting, sweating, and increased thirst. The reaction can last from 30 minutes to several hours.

What side effects may I notice from receiving this medicine?

Side effects that you should report to your doctor or health care professional as soon as possible: -allergic reactions like skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, or tongue -breathing problems -changes in vision -fast, irregular heartbeat -high or low blood pressure -mouth sores -pain, tingling, numbness in the hands or feet -signs of decreased platelets or bleeding -bruising, pinpoint red spots on the skin, black, tarry stools, blood in the urine -signs of decreased red blood cells -unusually weak or tired, feeling faint or lightheaded, falls -signs of infection -fever or chills, cough, sore throat, pain or difficulty passing urine -signs and symptoms of liver injury like dark yellow or brown urine; general ill feeling or flu-like symptoms; light-colored stools; loss of appetite; nausea; right upper belly pain; unusually weak or tired; yellowing of the eyes or skin -swelling of the ankles, feet, hands -unusually slow heartbeat Side effects that usually do not require medical attention (report to your doctor or health care professional if they continue or are bothersome): -diarrhea -hair loss -loss of appetite -muscle or joint pain -nausea, vomiting -pain, redness, or irritation at site where injected -tiredness

This list may not describe all possible side effects. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What may interact with this medicine?

Do not take this medicine with any of the following medications: -disulfiram -metronidazole This medicine may also interact with the following medications: -antiviral medicines for hepatitis, HIV or AIDS -certain antibiotics like erythromycin and clarithromycin -certain medicines for fungal infections like ketoconazole and itraconazole -certain medicines for seizures like carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin -gemfibrozil -nefazodone -rifampin -St. John's wort

This list may not describe all possible interactions. Give your health care provider a list of all the medicines, herbs, non-prescription drugs, or dietary supplements you use. Also tell them if you smoke, drink alcohol, or use illegal drugs. Some items may interact with your medicine.