

DOCETAXEL (Taxotere)

Type of Drug: A man-made drug that comes from the yew tree

How is it Given?

- Intravenous (IV) - into a vein or central line

How Does it Work?

- Stops cancer cells from dividing into 2 new cells, thus blocking cancer growth

Common Side Effects:

- Low blood counts
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Weight gain and swelling of hands and feet (can occur a few weeks after treatment)
- Mouth sores
- Hair loss
- Skin rash (itchy)
- Tingling in arms or legs (from nerve irritation)

Less Common Side Effects:

- Eye irritation (conjunctivitis)
- Abnormal liver function tests
- Fever, flushing, low blood pressure
- Muscle and joint aches
- Changes in taste
- Allergic reaction (difficulty breathing – usually happens in first 10 minutes of infusion)