### UPMC | HILLMAN CANCER CENTER

# Cabazitaxel (Jevtana)

#### **About This Medicine**

Cabazitaxel is used to treat cancer. It is given by the vein (IV).

#### **Possible Side Effects**

- A decrease in the number of white blood cells and red blood cells. This may raise your risk of infection and make you tired and weak.
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Tiredness and weakness
- Blood in your urine
- Back pain

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in 10% or greater of patients treated with cabazitaxel. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

#### Warnings and Precautions

- Bone marrow suppression, which can be life-threatening. This is a decrease in the number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection, make you tired and weak, and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Neutropenic fever. A type of fever that can develop when you have a very low number of white blood cells which can be life-threatening.
- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this medicine may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. If this happens, do not take another dose of this medicine. You should get urgent medical treatment.



- Severe nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, which can be life-threatening. These side effects may be more severe if you have received prior radiation or have a history of bleeding in your stomach or intestine.
- Bleeding in your stomach or intestine and perforation an abnormal hole in your stomach, intestine, esophagus, or other organ, which can be life-threatening.
- Changes in your kidney function, which can cause kidney failure and be life-threatening.
- Effects on the bladder may happen if you have received prior radiation to your pelvis area. You may have irritation and bleeding in the bladder. You may have blood in your urine.
- Inflammation (swelling) and/or scarring of the lungs. You may have a cough and/or trouble breathing.
- Patients 65 years and older are at increased risk of severe and life-threatening side effects.

**Note:** Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

#### **Important Information**

- Cytotoxic medicines leave the body through urine and stool, but they can also be present in other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your health care provider after your treatment. If you take a cytotoxic pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- Cabazitaxel is given in combination with an oral steroid. It is important that you take your steroid as prescribed.

## **Treating Side Effects**

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your nurse before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.



- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can help lessen or stop your diarrhea and/or constipation.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your doctor or nurse before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your doctor's approval, may increase your appetite.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.

## **Food and Medicine Interactions**

- This medicine may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your doctor as this could make side effects worse.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with cabazitaxel. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

# When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness and/or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Dry cough
- Pain in your chest
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Abdominal pain and/or back pain that does not go away
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week



- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.
- Pain when passing urine; blood in urine
- Decreased urine or difficulty urinating, and/or very dark urine
- If you think you may have impregnated your partner

#### **Reproduction Warnings**

- **Pregnancy warning**: This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Cabazitaxel is not indicated for use in women. Males with partners of childbearing potential should use effective contraception during treatment and for 4 months after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may have impregnated your partner.
- Breastfeeding warning: Cabazitaxel is not indicated for use in women.
- **Fertility warning:** In men, this medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm banking.

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