

Nab-paclitaxel (protein-bound) (Abraxane)

About This Medicine

NAB-PACLITAXEL (Nab PAK li TAX el) treats some types of cancer. It works by slowing down the growth of cancer cells. It is given in the vein (IV).

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

Possible Side Effects

- A decrease in the number of white blood cells and red blood cells. This may raise your risk of infection, make you tired and weak.
- Abnormal electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG)
- Nausea
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Tiredness and/or weakness
- Changes in your liver function
- Infection
- Joint and muscle pain
- Effects on the nerves called peripheral neuropathy. You may feel numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet. It may be hard for you to button your clothes, open jars, or walk as usual. The effect on the nerves may get worse with more doses of the medicine. These effects get better in some people after the medicine is stopped but it does not get better in all people.
- Hair loss. Hair loss is often temporary, although with certain medicine, hair loss can sometimes be permanent. Hair loss may happen suddenly or gradually. If you lose hair, you may lose it from your head, face, armpits, pubic area, chest, and/or legs. You may also notice your hair getting thin.

Note: The side effects listed above were reported in 20% or greater of people treated with nab-paclitaxel. 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 care team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Bone marrow suppression. 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 may raise your risk of bleeding.

- Inflammation (swelling) of the lungs which can be life-threatening. You may have a dry cough or trouble breathing.
- Risk of severe and life-threatening infections
- Severe peripheral neuropathy
- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some people, which can be life-threatening. 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.**
- This medicine contains albumin, which is a protein from donated human blood. There is a rare risk of transmission of viral diseases.

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

Important Information

- This medicine may be present in the urine, stool and 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 care team after your treatment. If you take a pill each day, follow these precautions every day.

Treating Side Effects

- 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 care team 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 care team before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day. Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Get regular exercise, with your care team's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- 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 care team 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 care team about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- To help with hair loss, wash with a mild shampoo and avoid washing your hair every day. Avoid coloring your hair.
- Avoid rubbing your scalp, pat your hair or scalp dry.
- Limit your use of hair spray, electric curlers, blow dryers, and curling irons.
- If you are interested in getting a wig, talk to your care team and they can help you get in touch with programs in your local area.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- If you have numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, be careful when cooking, walking, and handling sharp objects and hot liquids.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- This medicine may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your care team as this could make side effects worse.
- This medicine may interact with other medicines. Tell your care team about all the prescription and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) that you are taking at this time. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- This medicine may interact with St. John's Wort and may lower the levels of the medicine in your body, which can make it less effective.

When to Call Your Care Team

Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Tiredness or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Pain in your chest
- Dry cough
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with weakness or lightheadedness
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Pain that does not go away or is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- Numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet
- Signs of infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, trouble urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin



- Signs of liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- 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.**

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can cause serious birth defects. If you can become pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for at least 6 months after the last dose. If you can get your partner pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for at least 3 months after the last dose. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant or think your partner might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine and for 2 weeks after the last dose.
- **Fertility Warning:** This medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. If you plan to have children, talk with your care team.

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