

# Mead Johnson

## ONCOLOGY PRODUCTS

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS  
DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

# TAXOL<sup>®</sup> (paclitaxel) INJECTION

### WARNING

TAXOL<sup>®</sup> (paclitaxel) should be administered under the supervision of a physician experienced in the use of cancer chemotherapeutic agents. Appropriate management of complications is possible only when adequate diagnostic and treatment facilities are readily available.

Anaphylaxis and severe hypersensitivity reactions characterized by dyspnea and hypotension requiring treatment, angioedema, and generalized urticaria have occurred in 2% of patients receiving TAXOL in clinical trials. Fatal reactions have occurred in patients despite premedication. All patients should be pretreated with corticosteroids, diphenhydramine, and H<sub>2</sub> antagonists. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section.) Patients who experience severe hypersensitivity reactions to TAXOL should not be rechallenged with the drug.

TAXOL therapy should not be given to patients with solid tumors who have baseline neutrophil counts of less than 1500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> and should not be given to patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma if the baseline neutrophil count is less than 1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. In order to monitor the occurrence of bone marrow suppression, primarily neutropenia, which may be severe and result in infection, it is recommended that frequent peripheral blood cell counts be performed on all patients receiving TAXOL.

### DESCRIPTION

TAXOL (paclitaxel) Injection is a clear colorless to slightly yellow viscous solution. It is supplied as a nonaqueous solution intended for dilution with a suitable parenteral fluid prior to intravenous infusion. TAXOL is available in 30 mg (5 mL) and 100 mg (16.7 mL) multidose vials. Each mL of sterile nonpyrogenic solution contains 6 mg paclitaxel, 527 mg of purified Cremophor<sup>®</sup> EL\* (polyoxyethylated castor oil) and 49.7% (v/v) dehydrated alcohol, USP.

Paclitaxel is a natural product with antitumor activity. TAXOL (paclitaxel) is obtained via a semi-synthetic process from *Taxus baccata*. The chemical name for paclitaxel is 5 $\beta$ ,20-Epoxy-1,2 $\alpha$ ,4,7 $\beta$ ,10 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -hexahydroxytax-11-en-9-one 4, 10-diacetate 2-benzoate 13-ester with (2R,3S)-N-benzoyl-3-phenylisoserine.

\*Cremophor<sup>®</sup> EL is the registered trademark of BASF Aktiengesellschaft.

Cremophor<sup>®</sup> EL is further purified by a Bristol-Myers Squibb Company proprietary process before use.

Paclitaxel has the following structural formula:

Paclitaxel is a white to off-white crystalline powder with the empirical formula  $C_{47}H_{51}NO_{14}$  and a molecular weight of 853.9. It is highly lipophilic, insoluble in water, and melts at around 216-217°C.

### CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Paclitaxel is a novel antimicrotubule agent that promotes the assembly of microtubules from tubulin dimers and stabilizes microtubules by preventing depolymerization. This stability results in the inhibition of the normal dynamic reorganization of the microtubule network that is essential for vital interphase and mitotic cellular functions. In addition, paclitaxel induces abnormal arrays or “bundles” of microtubules throughout the cell cycle and multiple asters of microtubules during mitosis.

Following intravenous administration of TAXOL, paclitaxel plasma concentrations decline in a biphasic manner. The initial rapid decline represents distribution to the peripheral compartment and elimination of the drug. The later phase is due, in part, to a relatively slow efflux of paclitaxel from the peripheral compartment.

Pharmacokinetic parameters of paclitaxel following 3- and 24-hour infusions of TAXOL at dose levels of 135 and 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> were determined in a Phase 3 randomized study in ovarian cancer patients and are summarized in the following table:

Summary of Pharmacokinetic Parameters - Mean Values

Dose (mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Infusion Duration (h)	N (patients)	C <sub>MAX</sub> (ng/mL)	AUC(0-∞) (ng·h/mL)	T-HALF (h)	CL <sub>T</sub> (L/h/m <sup>2</sup> )
135	24	2	195	6300	52.7	21.7
175	24	4	365	7993	15.7	23.8
135	3	7	2170	7952	13.1	17.7
175	3	5	3650	15007	20.2	12.2

C<sub>MAX</sub>=Maximum plasma concentration

AUC(0-∞) = Area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time 0 to infinity

CL<sub>T</sub> = Total body clearance

It appeared that with the 24-hour infusion of TAXOL, a 30% increase in dose (135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> versus 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) increased the C<sub>MAX</sub> by 87%, whereas the AUC(0-∞) remained proportional. However, with a 3-hour infusion, for a 30% increase in dose, the C<sub>MAX</sub> and AUC(0-∞) were increased by 68% and 89%, respectively. The mean

apparent volume of distribution at steady state, with the 24-hour infusion of TAXOL, ranged from 227 to 688 L/m<sup>2</sup>, indicating extensive extravascular distribution and/or tissue binding of paclitaxel.

The pharmacokinetics of paclitaxel were also evaluated in adult cancer patients who received single doses of 15-135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given by 1-hour infusions (n=15), 30-275 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given by 6-hour infusions (n=36), and 200-275 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given by 24-hour infusions (n=54) in Phase 1 & 2 studies. Values for CL<sub>T</sub> and volume of distribution were consistent with the findings in the Phase 3 study. The pharmacokinetics of TAXOL in patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma have not been studied.

*In vitro* studies of binding to human serum proteins, using paclitaxel concentrations ranging from 0.1 to 50 µg/mL, indicate that between 89-98% of drug is bound; the presence of cimetidine, ranitidine, dexamethasone, or diphenhydramine did not affect protein binding of paclitaxel.

After intravenous administration of 15-275 mg/m<sup>2</sup> doses of TAXOL as 1-, 6-, or 24-hour infusions, mean values for cumulative urinary recovery of unchanged drug ranged from 1.3% to 12.6% of the dose, indicating extensive non-renal clearance. In five patients administered a 225 or 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose of radiolabeled TAXOL as a 3-hour infusion, a mean of 71% of the radioactivity was excreted in the feces in 120 hours, and 14% was recovered in the urine. Total recovery of radioactivity ranged from 56% to 101% of the dose. Paclitaxel represented a mean of 5% of the administered radioactivity recovered in the feces, while metabolites, primarily 6α-hydroxypaclitaxel, accounted for the balance. *In vitro* studies with human liver microsomes and tissue slices showed that paclitaxel was metabolized primarily to 6α-hydroxypaclitaxel by the cytochrome P450 isozyme CYP2C8; and to two minor metabolites, 3'-p-hydroxypaclitaxel and 6α,3'-p-dihydroxypaclitaxel, by CYP3A4. *In vitro*, the metabolism of paclitaxel to 6α-hydroxypaclitaxel was inhibited by a number of agents (ketoconazole, verapamil, diazepam, quinidine, dexamethasone, cyclosporin, teniposide, etoposide, and vincristine), but the concentrations used exceeded those found *in vivo* following normal therapeutic doses. Testosterone, 17α-ethinyl estradiol, retinoic acid, and quercetin, a specific inhibitor of CYP2C8, also inhibited the formation of 6α-hydroxypaclitaxel *in vitro*. The pharmacokinetics of paclitaxel may also be altered *in vivo* as a result of interactions with compounds that are substrates, inducers, or inhibitors of CYP2C8 and/or CYP3A4. (See **PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions** section.) The effect of renal or hepatic dysfunction on the disposition of paclitaxel has not been investigated.

Possible interactions of paclitaxel with concomitantly administered medications have not been formally investigated.

## **CLINICAL STUDIES**

### **Ovarian Carcinoma**

*First-Line Data:* The safety and efficacy of TAXOL (135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 24 hr) in combination with cisplatin (75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) in patients with advanced ovarian cancer and no prior chemotherapy were evaluated in a Phase 3 multicenter, randomized, controlled (vs. cyclophosphamide 750 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/cisplatin 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) clinical trial conducted by the

Gynecological Oncology Group (GOG). A total of 410 patients with Stage III or IV disease (>1 cm residual disease after staging laparotomy or distant metastases) were randomized. Patients treated with TAXOL in combination with cisplatin had significantly longer time to progression (median 16.6 vs. 13.0 months, p=0.0008) and nearly a year longer median survival time (p=0.0002) compared with standard therapy.

#### Efficacy in the Phase 3 First-Line Ovarian Carcinoma Study

	TAXOL/Cisplatin (n=196)	Cyclophosphamide/Cisplatin (n=214)
• <b>Clinical Response*</b>	(n=113)	(n=127)
--rate (percent)	62	48
--p-value		0.04
• <b>Pathological Response**</b>		
--rate (percent)	34	20
--p-value		0.001
• <b>Pathological Complete Response:</b>		
--rate (percent)	21	16
--p-value		0.20
• <b>Time to Progression</b>		
--median (months)	16.6	13.0
--p-value		0.0008
• <b>Survival</b>		
--median (months)	35.5	24.2
--p-value		0.0002
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* Among evaluable patients only.		
** Includes patients with pathological complete response plus patients with microscopic residual disease.		

The adverse event profile for patients receiving TAXOL in combination with cisplatin was generally consistent with that seen for the pooled analysis performed on data from 812 patients treated with single-agent TAXOL in 10 clinical studies. These adverse events and adverse events from the phase 3 first-line ovarian carcinoma study are described in the ADVERSE REACTIONS section of the label

*Second-Line Data:* Data from five Phase 1 & 2 clinical studies (189 patients), a multicenter randomized Phase 3 study (407 patients) as well as an interim analysis of data from more than 300 patients enrolled in a treatment referral center program were used in support of the use of TAXOL in patients who have failed initial or subsequent

chemotherapy for metastatic carcinoma of the ovary. Two of the Phase 2 studies (92 patients) utilized an initial dose of 135 to 170 mg/m<sup>2</sup> in most patients (>90%) administered over 24 hours by continuous infusion. Response rates in these two studies were 22% (95% CI=11-37%) and 30% (95% CI=18-46%) with a total of six complete and 18 partial responses in 92 patients. The median duration of overall response in these two studies measured from the first day of treatment was 7.2 months (range: 3.5-15.8 months) and 7.5 months (range: 5.3-17.4 months), respectively. The median survival was 8.1 months (range: 0.2-36.7 months) and 15.9 months (range: 1.8-34.5 + months).

The Phase 3 study had a bifactorial design and compared the efficacy and safety of TAXOL, administered at two different doses (135 or 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and schedules (3- or 24-hour infusion). The overall response rate for the 407 patients was 16.2% (95% CI=12.8-20.2%), with 6 complete and 60 partial responses. Duration of response, measured from the first day of treatment was 8.3 months (range: 3.2-21.6 months). Median time to progression was 3.7 months (range 0.1+ - 25.1+ months). Median survival was 11.5 months (range: 0.2-26.3 + months).

Response rates, median survival and median time to progression for the 4 arms are given in the following table.

Efficacy in the Phase 3 Second-Line Ovarian Carcinoma Study

	175/3 (n=96)	175/24 (n=106)	135/3 (n=99)	135/24 (n=106)
<b>• Response</b>				
--rate (percent)	14.6	21.7	15.2	13.2
--95% Confidence Interval	(8.5-23.6)	(14.5-31.0)	(9.0-24.1)	(7.7-21.5)
<b>• Time to Progression</b>				
--median (months)	4.4	4.2	3.4	2.8
--95% Confidence Interval	(3.0-5.6)	(3.5-5.1)	(2.8-4.2)	(1.9-4.0)
<b>• Survival</b>				
--median (months)	11.5	11.8	13.1	10.7
--95% Confidence Interval	(8.4-14.4)	(8.9-14.6)	(9.1-14.6)	(8.1-13.6)

Analyses were performed as planned by the bifactorial study design described in the protocol, by comparing the two doses (135 or 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) irrespective of the schedule (3 or 24 hours) and the two schedules irrespective of dose. Patients receiving the 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose had a response rate similar to that for those receiving the 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose: 18% vs. 14% (p=0.28). No difference in response rate was detected when comparing the 3-hour with the 24-hour infusion: 15% vs. 17% (p=0.50). Patients receiving the 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose of TAXOL had a

longer time to progression than those receiving the 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose: median 4.2 vs. 3.1 months (p=0.03). There was a trend to longer time to progression for patients receiving the 3-hour vs. the 24-hour infusion: 4.0 months vs. 3.7 months (p=0.08). Median survival was 11.6 months in patients receiving the 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose of TAXOL and 11.0 months in patients receiving the 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose (p=0.92). Median survival was 11.7 months for patients receiving the 3-hour infusion of TAXOL and 11.2 months for patients receiving the 24-hour infusion (p=0.91). These statistical analyses should be viewed with caution because of the multiple comparisons made.

TAXOL remained active in patients who had developed resistance to platinum-containing therapy (defined as tumor progression while on, or tumor relapse within 6 months from completion of, a platinum containing regimen) with response rates of 14% in the Phase 3 study and 31% in the Phase 1 & 2 clinical studies.

The adverse event profile in the Phase 3 study was consistent with that seen for a pooled analysis performed on 812 patients treated in ten clinical studies (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS** section).

The results of the randomized study support the use of TAXOL at doses of 135 to 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, administered by a 3-hour intravenous infusion. The same doses administered by 24-hour infusion were more toxic. However, the study had insufficient power to determine whether a particular dose and schedule produced superior efficacy.

**Breast Carcinoma:** Data from 83 patients accrued in three phase 2 open label studies and from 471 patients enrolled in a phase 3 randomized study were available to support the use of TAXOL in patients with metastatic breast carcinoma.

*Phase 2 open label studies:* Two studies were conducted in 53 patients previously treated with a maximum of one prior chemotherapeutic regimen. TAXOL was administered in these 2 trials as a 24-hour infusion at initial doses of 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (with G-CSF support) or 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>. The response rates were 57% (95% CI: 37-75%) and 52% (95% CI: 32-72%), respectively. The third phase 2 study was conducted in extensively pretreated patients who had failed anthracycline therapy and who had received a minimum of 2 chemotherapy regimens for the treatment of metastatic disease. The dose of TAXOL was 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a 24-hour infusion with G-CSF support. Nine of 30 patients achieved a partial response, for a response rate of 30% (95% CI: 15-50%).

*Phase 3 randomized study:* This multicenter trial was conducted in patients previously treated with one or two regimens of chemotherapy. Patients were randomized to receive TAXOL (paclitaxel) at a dose of either 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> or 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given as a 3-hour infusion. In the 471 patients enrolled, 60% had symptomatic disease with impaired performance status at study entry, and 73% had visceral metastases. These patients had failed prior chemotherapy either in the adjuvant setting (30%), the metastatic setting (39%), or both (31%). Sixty-seven per cent of the patients had been previously exposed to anthracyclines and 23% of them had disease considered resistant to this class of agents.

The overall response rate for the 454 evaluable patients was 26% (95% CI: 22-30%), with 17 complete and 99 partial responses. The median duration of response, measured from the first day of treatment, was 8.1 months

(range: 3.4-18.1 + months). Overall for the 471 patients, the median time to progression was 3.5 months (range: 0.03-17.1 months). Median survival was 11.7 months (range: 0-18.9 months).

Response rates, median survival and median time to progression for the 2 arms are given in the following table.

Efficacy in the Phase 3 Breast Carcinoma Study		
	175/3 (n=235)	135/3 (n=236)
<b>• Response</b>		
---rate (percent)	28	22
---95% Confidence Interval	(22-34)	(17-27)
<b>• Time to Progression</b>		
---median (months)	4.2	3.0
---95% Confidence Interval	(3.2-4.6)	(2.5-3.8)
<b>• Survival</b>		
---median (months)	11.7	10.5
---95% Confidence Interval	(10.0-13.8)	(9.0-12.8)

The adverse event profile in the Phase 3 study was consistent with that seen for a pooled analysis performed on 812 patients treated in ten clinical studies. These events and adverse events for the phase 3 breast carcinoma study are described in the ADVERSE REACTIONS section of the label.

**AIDS-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma:** Data from two Phase 2 open label studies support the use of TAXOL as second-line therapy in patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma. Fifty-nine of the 85 patients enrolled in these studies had previously received systemic therapy, including interferon alpha (32%), DaunoXome® (31%), DOXIL® (2%), and doxorubicin containing chemotherapy (42%), with 64% having received prior anthracyclines. Eighty-five percent of the pretreated patients had progressed on, or could not tolerate, prior systemic therapy.

In Study CA139-174 patients received TAXOL at 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a 3-hour infusion every 3 weeks (intended dose intensity 45 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/week). If no dose-limiting toxicity was observed, patients were to receive 155 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> in subsequent courses. Hematopoietic growth factors were not to be used initially. In Study CA139-281 patients received TAXOL at 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a 3-hour infusion every 2 weeks (intended dose intensity 50 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/week). In this study patients could be receiving hematopoietic growth factors before the start of TAXOL therapy, or this support was to be initiated as indicated; the dose of TAXOL was not increased. The dose intensity of TAXOL used in this patient population was lower than the dose intensity recommended for other solid tumors.

All patients had widespread and poor risk disease. Applying the ACTG staging criteria to patients with prior systemic therapy, 93% were poor risk for extent of disease (T<sub>1</sub>), 88% had a CD4 count <200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (I<sub>1</sub>), and 97% had poor risk considering their systemic illness (S<sub>1</sub>).

All patients in Study CA139-174 had a Karnofsky performance status of 80 or 90 at baseline; in Study CA139-281, there were 26 (46%) patients with a Karnofsky performance status of 70 or worse at baseline.

Extent of Disease at Study Entry  
Percent of Patients

	Prior Systemic Therapy (n=59)
Visceral ± edema ± oral ± cutaneous	42
Edema or lymph nodes oral ± cutaneous	41
Oral ± cutaneous	10
Cutaneous Only	7

Although the planned dose intensity in the two studies was slightly different (45 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/week in Study CA139-174 and 50 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/week in Study CA139-281), delivered dose intensity was 38-39 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/week in both studies, with a similar range (20-24 to 51-61).

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DaunoXome® is a registered trademark of NeXstar Pharmaceuticals, Incorporated.

DOXIL® is a registered trademark of Sequus Pharmaceuticals, Incorporated.

*Efficacy:* The efficacy of TAXOL was evaluated by assessing cutaneous tumor response according to the amended ACTG criteria and by seeking evidence of clinical benefit in patients in six domains of symptoms and/or conditions that are commonly related to AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma.

*Cutaneous Tumor Response (Amended ACTG Criteria):* The objective response rate was 59% (95% CI: 46% to 72%) (35 of 59 patients) in patients with prior systemic therapy. Cutaneous responses were primarily defined as flattening of more than 50% of previously raised lesions.

Overall Best Response (Amended ACTG Criteria)	
Percent of Patients	
	Prior Systemic Therapy (n=59)
Complete response	3
Partial response	56
Stable disease	29
Progression	8
Early death/toxicity	3

The median time to response was 8.1 weeks and the median duration of response measured from the first day of treatment was 10.4 months (95% CI: 7.0 to 11.0 months) for the patients who had previously received systemic therapy. The median time to progression was 6.2 months (95% CI: 4.6 to 8.7 months).

*Additional Clinical Benefit:* Most data on patient benefit were assessed retrospectively (plans for such analyses were not included in the study protocols). Nonetheless, clinical descriptions and photographs indicated clear benefit in some patients, including instances of improved pulmonary function in patients with pulmonary involvement, improved ambulation, resolution of ulcers, and decreased analgesic requirements in patients with KS involving the feet and resolution of facial lesions and edema in patients with KS involving the face, extremities, and genitalia.

*Safety:* The adverse event profile of TAXOL administered to patients with advanced HIV disease and poor-risk AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma was generally similar to that seen in a pooled analysis of 812 patients with solid tumors (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS** section). In this immunosuppressed patient population, however, a lower dose intensity of TAXOL and supportive therapy including hematopoietic growth factors in patients with severe neutropenia are

recommended. Patients with AIDS-related Kaposi' sarcoma may have more severe hematologic toxicities than patients with solid tumors.

## INDICATIONS

TAXOL is indicated as first-line and subsequent therapy for the treatment of advanced carcinoma of the ovary. As first-line therapy, Taxol is indicated in combination with cisplatin.

TAXOL is indicated for the treatment of breast cancer after failure of combination chemotherapy for metastatic disease or relapse within 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy. Prior therapy should have included an anthracycline unless clinically contraindicated.

TAXOL is indicated for the second-line treatment of AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

TAXOL is contraindicated in patients who have a history of hypersensitivity reactions to TAXOL or other drugs formulated in Cremophor® EL (polyoxyethylated castor oil).

TAXOL should not be used in patients with solid tumors who have baseline neutrophil counts of <1500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or in patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma with baseline neutrophil counts of <1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

## WARNINGS

Anaphylaxis and severe hypersensitivity reactions characterized by dyspnea and hypotension requiring treatment, angioedema, and generalized urticaria have occurred in 2% of patients receiving TAXOL in clinical trials. Fatal reactions have occurred in patients despite premedication. All patients should be pretreated with corticosteroids, diphenhydramine, and H<sub>2</sub> antagonists. (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** section.) Patients who experience severe hypersensitivity reactions to TAXOL should not be rechallenged with the drug.

Bone marrow suppression (primarily neutropenia) is dose-dependent and is the dose-limiting toxicity. Neutrophil nadirs occurred at a median of 11 days. TAXOL should not be administered to patients with baseline neutrophil counts of less than 1500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (<1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> for patients with KS). Frequent monitoring of blood counts should be instituted during TAXOL treatment. Patients should not be re-treated with subsequent cycles of TAXOL until neutrophils recover to a level >1500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (>1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> for patients with KS) and platelets recover to a level >100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

Severe conduction abnormalities have been documented in <1% of patients during TAXOL therapy and in some cases required pacemaker placement. If patients develop significant conduction abnormalities during TAXOL infusion, appropriate therapy should be administered and continuous cardiac monitoring should be performed during subsequent therapy with TAXOL.

## Pregnancy

TAXOL can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Administration of paclitaxel during the period of organogenesis to rabbits at doses of 3.0 mg/kg/day (about 0.2 the daily maximum recommended human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis) caused embryo- and fetotoxicity, as indicated by intrauterine mortality, increased resorptions and increased fetal deaths. Maternal toxicity was also observed at this dose. No teratogenic effects were observed at 1.0 mg/kg/day (about 1/15 the daily maximum recommended human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis); teratogenic potential could not be assessed at higher doses due to extensive fetal mortality.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. If TAXOL is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while receiving this drug, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus. Women of childbearing potential should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant.

### **PRECAUTIONS**

Contact of the undiluted concentrate with plasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC) equipment or devices used to prepare solutions for infusion is not recommended. In order to minimize patient exposure to the plasticizer DEHP [di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate], which may be leached from PVC infusion bags or sets, diluted TAXOL solutions should preferably be stored in bottles (glass, polypropylene) or plastic bags, (polypropylene, polyolefin) and administered through polyethylene-lined administration sets.

TAXOL should be administered through an in-line filter with a microporous membrane not greater than 0.22 microns. Use of filter devices such as IVEX-2® filters which incorporate short inlet and outlet PVC-coated tubing has not resulted in significant leaching of DEHP.

**Drug Interactions:** In a Phase 1 trial using escalating doses of TAXOL (110-200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and cisplatin (50 or 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) given as sequential infusions, myelosuppression was more profound when TAXOL was given after cisplatin than with the alternate sequence (i.e. TAXOL before cisplatin). Pharmacokinetic data from these patients demonstrated a decrease in paclitaxel clearance of approximately 33% when TAXOL was administered following cisplatin.

The metabolism of TAXOL is catalyzed by cytochrome P450 isoenzymes CYP2C8 and CYP3A4. In the absence of formal clinical drug interaction studies, caution should be exercised when administering TAXOL concomitantly with known substrates or inhibitors of the cytochrome P450 isoenzymes CYP2C8 and CYP3A4. (See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY** section.)

Potential interactions between paclitaxel, a substrate of CYP3A4 and protease inhibitors (ritonavir, saquinavir, indinavir, and nelfinavir), which are substrates and/or inhibitors of CYP3A4 have not been evaluated in clinical trials.

Reports in the literature suggest that plasma levels of doxorubicin (and its active metabolite doxorubicinol) may be increased when paclitaxel and doxorubicin are used in combination.

**Hematology:** TAXOL therapy should not be administered to patients with baseline neutrophil counts of less than

1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. In order to monitor the occurrence of myelotoxicity, it is recommended that frequent peripheral blood cell counts be performed on all patients receiving TAXOL. Patients should not be re-treated with subsequent cycles of TAXOL until neutrophils recover to a level >1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> and platelets recover to a level >100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. In the case of severe neutropenia (<500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> for seven days or more) during a course of TAXOL therapy, a 20% reduction in dose for subsequent courses of therapy is recommended.

For patients with advanced HIV disease and poor-risk AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma TAXOL, at the recommended dose for this disease, can be initiated and repeated if the neutrophil count is at least 1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

**Hypersensitivity Reactions:** Patients with a history of severe hypersensitivity reactions to products containing Cremophor® EL (e.g. cyclosporin for injection concentrate and teniposide for injection concentrate) should not be treated with TAXOL. In order to avoid the occurrence of severe hypersensitivity reactions, all patients treated with TAXOL should be premedicated with corticosteroids (such as dexamethasone), diphenhydramine and H<sub>2</sub> antagonists (such as cimetidine or ranitidine). Minor symptoms such as flushing, skin reactions, dyspnea, hypotension or tachycardia do not require interruption of therapy. However, severe reactions, such as hypotension requiring treatment, dyspnea requiring bronchodilators, angioedema or generalized urticaria require immediate discontinuation of TAXOL and aggressive symptomatic therapy. Patients who have developed severe hypersensitivity reactions should not be rechallenged with TAXOL.

**Cardiovascular:** Hypotension, bradycardia, and hypertension have been observed during administration of TAXOL, but generally do not require treatment. Occasionally TAXOL infusions must be interrupted or discontinued because of initial or recurrent hypertension. Frequent vital sign monitoring, particularly during the first hour of TAXOL infusion, is recommended. Continuous cardiac monitoring is not required except for patients with serious conduction abnormalities. (See **WARNINGS** section.)

**Nervous System:** Although the occurrence of peripheral neuropathy is frequent, the development of severe symptomatology is unusual and requires a dose reduction of 20% for all subsequent courses of TAXOL.

TAXOL contains dehydrated alcohol USP, 396 mg/mL; consideration should be given to possible CNS and other effects of alcohol. (See **PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric Use** section.)

**Hepatic:** There is evidence that the toxicity of TAXOL is enhanced in patients with elevated liver enzymes. Caution should be exercised when administering TAXOL to patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment and dose adjustments should be considered.

**Injection Site Reaction:** Injection site reactions, including reactions secondary to extravasation, were usually mild and consisted of erythema, tenderness, skin discoloration, or swelling at the injection site. These reactions have been observed more frequently with the 24-hour infusion than with the 3-hour infusion. Recurrence of skin reactions at a site of previous extravasation following administration of TAXOL at a different site, i.e., "recall", has been reported rarely.

Rare reports of more severe events such as phlebitis, cellulitis, induration, skin exfoliation, necrosis and fibrosis have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety. In some cases the onset of the injection site reaction either occurred during a prolonged infusion or was delayed by a week to ten days.

A specific treatment for extravasation reactions is unknown at this time. Given the possibility of extravasation, it is advisable to closely monitor the infusion site for possible infiltration during drug administration.

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** The carcinogenic potential of TAXOL (paclitaxel) has not been studied.

Paclitaxel has been shown to be clastogenic *in vitro* (chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes) and *in vivo* (micronucleus test in mice). Paclitaxel was not mutagenic in the Ames test or the CHO/HGPRT gene mutation assay.

Administration of paclitaxel prior to and during mating produced impairment of fertility in male and female rats at doses equal to or greater than 1 mg/kg/day (about 0.04 the daily maximum recommended human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup>

basis). At this dose, paclitaxel caused reduced fertility and reproductive indices, and increased embryo- and fetotoxicity. (See **WARNINGS** SECTION.)

**Pregnancy:** Pregnancy "Category D." (See **WARNINGS** section.)

**Nursing Mothers:** It is not known whether the drug is excreted in human milk. Following intravenous administration of carbon-14 labeled TAXOL to rats on days 9 to 10 postpartum, concentrations of radioactivity in milk were higher than in plasma and declined in parallel with the plasma concentrations. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, it is recommended that nursing be discontinued when receiving TAXOL therapy.

**Pediatric Use:** The safety and effectiveness of TAXOL in pediatric patients have not been established.

There have been reports of central nervous system (CNS) toxicity (rarely associated with death) in a clinical trial in pediatric patients in which TAXOL was infused intravenously over 3 hours at doses ranging from 350 mg/m<sup>2</sup> to 420 mg/m<sup>2</sup>. The toxicity is most likely attributable to the high dose of the ethanol component of the TAXOL vehicle given over a short infusion time. The use of concomitant antihistamines may intensify this effect. Although a direct effect of the paclitaxel itself cannot be discounted, the high doses used in this study (over twice the recommended adult dosage) must be considered in assessing the safety of TAXOL for use in this population.

## **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Data in the following table are based on the experience of 812 patients (493 with ovarian carcinoma and 319 with breast carcinoma) enrolled in 10 studies. Two hundred and seventy-five patients were treated in 8 Phase 2 studies with TAXOL doses ranging from 135 to 300 mg/m<sup>2</sup> administered over 24 hours (in 4 of these studies, G-CSF was administered as hematopoietic support). Three hundred and one patients were treated in the randomized Phase 3



		Percent of Patients	
		TAXOL/Cisplatin (n=196)	Cyclophosphamide/Cisplatin (n=213)
<b>• Bone Marrow</b>			
---Neutropenia	<2,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	96	92
	<500/mm <sup>3</sup>	81***	58***
---Thrombocytopenia	<100,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	26	30
	<50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	10	9
---Anemia	<11 g/dL	88	86
	<8 g/dL	13	9
---Infections		21	15
---Febrile Neutropenia		15***	4***
<b>• Hypersensitivity Reaction**</b>			
---All		8***	1***
---Severe		3***	---***
<b>• Peripheral Neuropathy</b>			
---Any symptoms		25	20
---Severe symptoms		3***	---***
<b>• Nausea and Vomiting</b>			
---Any symptoms		65	69
---Severe symptoms		10	11
<b>• Myalgia/Arthralgia</b>			
---Any symptoms		9***	2***
---Severe symptoms		1	---
<b>• Diarrhea</b>			
---Any symptoms		16***	8***
---Severe symptoms		4	1
<b>• Asthenia</b>			
---Any symptoms		17***	10***
---Severe symptoms		1	1
<b>• Alopecia</b>			
---Any symptoms		55***	37***
---Severe symptoms		6	8

\*Based on worst course analysis

\*\*All patients received premedication  
\*\*\* p<sub>≤</sub> 0.05 by Fisher's Exact Test

For the 403 patients who received single-agent TAXOL in the Phase 3 second-line ovarian carcinoma study, the following table shows the incidence of several important adverse events.

Frequency\* of Important Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Second-Line Ovarian Carcinoma Study

		Percent of Patients			
		175/3 (n=95)	175/24 (n=105)	135/3 (n=98)	135/24 (n=105)
<b>• Bone Marrow</b>					
---Neutropenia	<2,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	78	98	78	98
	<500/mm <sup>3</sup>	27	75	14	67
---Thrombocytopenia	<100,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	4	18	8	6
	<50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	1	7	2	1
---Anemia	<11 g/dL	84	90	68	88
	<8 g/dL	11	12	6	10
---Infections		26	29	20	18
<b>• Hypersensitivity Reaction**</b>					
---All		41	45	38	45
---Severe		2	0	2	1
<b>• Peripheral Neuropathy</b>					
---Any symptoms		63	60	55	42
---Severe symptoms		1	2	0	0
<b>• Mucositis</b>					
---Any symptoms		17	35	21	25
---Severe symptoms		0	3	0	2

\*Based on worst course analysis

\*\*All patients received premedication

Myelosuppression was dose and schedule related, with the schedule effect being more prominent. The development of severe hypersensitivity reactions (HSRs) was rare; 1% of the patients and 0.2% of the courses overall. There was no apparent dose or schedule effect seen for the HSRs. Peripheral neuropathy was clearly dose-related, but schedule did not appear to affect the incidence.

For the 458 patients who received single-agent TAXOL in the Phase 3 second-line breast carcinoma study, the following table shows the incidence of several important adverse events by treatment arm (each arm was administered by a 3-hour infusion).

Frequency\* of Important Adverse Events in the Phase 3

Breast Carcinoma Study

		Percent of Patients	
		175 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (n=229)	135 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (n=229)

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<b>• Bone Marrow</b>			
---Neutropenia	<2,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	90	81
	<500/mm <sup>3</sup>	28	19
---Thrombocytopenia	<100,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	11	7
	<50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	3	2
---Anemia	<11 g/dL	55	47
	<8 g/dL	4	2
---Infections		23	15
---Febrile Neutropenia		2	2
<b>• Hypersensitivity Reaction**</b>			
---All		36	31
---Severe		0	<1
<b>• Peripheral Neuropathy</b>			
---Any symptoms		70	46
---Severe symptoms		7	3
<b>• Mucositis</b>			
---Any symptoms		23	17
---Severe symptoms		3	<1

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\*Based on worst course analysis

\*\*All patients received premedication

Myelosuppression and peripheral neuropathy were dose related. There was one severe hypersensitivity reaction (HSR) observed at the dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

The following table shows the frequency of important adverse events in the 85 patients with KS treated with two different single-agent TAXOL regimens.

Frequency\* of Important Adverse Events in the  
AIDS-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma Studies

	Percent of Patients	
	Study CA139-174 135 mg/m <sup>2</sup> q 3 wk (n=29)	Study CA139-281 100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> q 2 wk (n=56)
<b>• Bone Marrow</b>		
---Neutropenia		
<2000/mm <sup>3</sup>	100	95
< 500/mm <sup>3</sup>	76	35
---Thrombocytopenia		
<100,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	52	27
< 50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	17	5
---Anemia		
<11 g/dL	86	73
< 8 g/dL	34	25
---Febrile Neutropenia	55	9
<b>• Opportunistic Infection</b>		
---Any	76	54
---Cytomegalovirus	45	27
---Herpes Simplex	38	11
--- <i>Pneumocystis carinii</i>	14	21
--- <i>M. Avium</i> intracellulare	24	4
---Candidiasis, esophageal	7	9
---Cryptosporidiosis	7	7
---Cryptococcal meningitis	3	2
---Leukoencephalopathy	--	2
<b>• Hypersensitivity Reaction**</b>		
---All	14	9
<b>• Cardiovascular</b>		
---Hypotension	17	9
---Bradycardia	3	--
<b>• Peripheral Neuropathy</b>		
---Any	79	46
---Severe	10	2
<b>• Myalgia/Arthralgia</b>		
---Any	93	48
---Severe	14	16
<b>• Gastrointestinal</b>		
---Nausea and vomiting	69	70
---Diarrhea	90	73
---Mucositis	45	20
<b>• Renal (creatinine elevation)</b>		
---Any	34	18
---Severe (grade III/IV)	7	5
<b>• Discontinuation for drug toxicity</b>		
	7	16

\*Based on worst course analysis

\*\*All patients received premedication

As demonstrated in this table, toxicity was more pronounced in the study utilizing TAXOL at a dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 3 weeks than in the study utilizing TAXOL at a dose of 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 2 weeks. Notably, severe neutropenia (76% versus 35%), febrile neutropenia (55% versus 9%) and opportunistic infections (76% versus 54%) were more common with the former dose and schedule. The differences between the two studies with respect to dose escalation and use of hematopoietic growth factors, as described above, should be taken into account. (See **CLINICAL STUDIES: AIDS-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma** section.) Note also that only 26% of the 85 patients in these studies received concomitant treatment with protease inhibitors, whose effect on paclitaxel metabolism has not yet been studied.

The following discussion refers to the overall safety database of 812 patients with solid tumors treated with single-agent TAXOL in clinical studies. The frequency and severity of adverse events have been generally similar for patients receiving TAXOL for the treatment of ovarian or breast carcinoma or Kaposi's sarcoma, but patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma may have more frequent and severe hematologic toxicity, infections, and febrile neutropenia. These patients require a lower dose intensity and supportive care. (See **CLINICAL STUDIES: AIDS-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma** section.) Toxicities that were observed only in or were noted to have occurred with greater severity in the population with Kaposi's sarcoma and that occurred with a difference that was clinically significant in this population are described. Toxicities that were noted to have occurred with greater severity or frequency in previously untreated patients with ovarian carcinoma who received TAXOL in combination with cisplatin and that occurred with a difference that was clinically significant in this population are also described. The frequency and severity of important adverse events for the Phase 3 first- and second-line ovarian and breast carcinoma studies are presented above in tabular form by treatment arm. In addition, rare events have been reported from the postmarketing experience or from other clinical studies.

**Hematologic:** Bone marrow suppression was the major dose-limiting toxicity of TAXOL. Neutropenia, the most important hematologic toxicity, was dose and schedule dependent and was generally rapidly reversible. Among patients treated in the Phase 3 second-line ovarian study with a 3-hour infusion, neutrophil counts declined below 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> in 13% of the patients treated with a dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> compared to 27% at a dose of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (p=0.05). In the same study, severe neutropenia (<500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) was more frequent with the 24-hour than with the 3-hour infusion; infusion duration had a greater impact on myelosuppression than dose. Neutropenia did not appear to increase with cumulative exposure and did not appear to be more frequent nor more severe for patients previously treated with radiation therapy.

In the study where TAXOL was administered to patients with ovarian carcinoma at a dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/24 hours in combination with cisplatin versus the control arm of cyclophosphamide plus cisplatin, the incidences of grade IV neutropenia and of febrile neutropenia were significantly greater in the Taxol plus cisplatin arm than in the

control arm. Grade IV neutropenia occurred in 81% on the Taxol plus cisplatin arm versus 58% on the cyclophosphamide plus cisplatin arm and febrile neutropenia occurred in 15% and 4% respectively. On the Taxol/cisplatin arm, there were 35/1074 (3%) courses with fever in which Grade IV neutropenia was reported at some time during the course. Fever was frequent (12% of all treatment courses). Infectious episodes occurred in 30% of all patients and 9% of all courses; these episodes were fatal in 1% of all patients, and included sepsis, pneumonia and peritonitis. In the Phase 3 second-line ovarian study, infectious episodes were reported in 19% of the patients given either the 135 or 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose by a 3-hour infusion. Urinary tract infections and upper respiratory tract infections were the most frequently reported infectious complications. In the immunosuppressed patient population with advanced HIV disease and poor-risk AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma, 61% of the patients reported at least one opportunistic infection. (See **CLINICAL STUDIES: AIDS-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma** section.) The use of supportive therapy, including G-CSF, is recommended for patients who have experienced severe neutropenia. (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** section.)

Thrombocytopenia was uncommon, and almost never severe (<50,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>). Twenty percent of the patients experienced a drop in their platelet count below 100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> at least once while on treatment; 7% had a platelet count <50,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> at the time of their worst nadir. Among the 812 patients, bleeding episodes were reported in 4% of all courses and by 14% of all patients but most of the hemorrhagic episodes were localized and the frequency of these events was unrelated to the TAXOL dose and schedule. In the Phase 3 second-line ovarian study, bleeding episodes were reported in 10% of the patients; no patients treated with the 3-hour infusion received platelet transfusions.

Anemia (Hb <11 g/dL) was observed in 78% of all patients and was severe (Hb <8 g/dL) in 16% of the cases. No consistent relationship between dose or schedule and the frequency of anemia was observed. Among all patients with normal baseline hemoglobin, 69% became anemic on study but only 7% had severe anemia. Red cell transfusions were required in 25% of all patients and in 12% of those with normal baseline hemoglobin levels.

**Hypersensitivity Reactions (HSRs):** All patients received premedication prior to TAXOL (See **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS: Hypersensitivity Reactions** sections). The frequency and severity of HSRs were not affected by the dose or schedule of TAXOL administration. In the Phase 3 second-line ovarian study, the 3-hour infusion was not associated with a greater increase in HSRs when compared to the 24-hour infusion. Hypersensitivity reactions were observed in 20% of all courses and in 41% of all patients. These reactions were severe in less than 2% of the patients and 1% of the courses. No severe reactions were observed after course 3 and severe symptoms occurred generally within the first hour of TAXOL infusion. The most frequent symptoms observed during these severe reactions were dyspnea, flushing, chest pain and tachycardia.

The minor hypersensitivity reactions consisted mostly of flushing (28%), rash (12%), hypotension (4%), dyspnea (2%), tachycardia (2%) and hypertension (1%). The frequency of hypersensitivity reactions remained

relatively stable during the entire treatment period.

Rare reports of chills and reports of back pain in association with hypersensitivity reactions have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety.

**Cardiovascular:** Hypotension, during the first 3 hours of infusion, occurred in 12% of all patients and 3% of all courses administered. Bradycardia, during the first 3 hours of infusion, occurred in 3% of all patients and 1% of all courses. In the Phase 3 second-line ovarian study, neither dose nor schedule had an effect on the frequency of hypotension and bradycardia. These vital sign changes most often caused no symptoms and required neither specific therapy nor treatment discontinuation. The frequency of hypotension and bradycardia were not influenced by prior anthracycline therapy.

Significant cardiovascular events possibly related to TAXOL occurred in approximately 1% of all patients. These events included syncope, rhythm abnormalities, hypertension and venous thrombosis. One of the patients with syncope treated with TAXOL at 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 24 hours had progressive hypotension and died. The arrhythmias included asymptomatic ventricular tachycardia, bigeminy and complete AV block requiring pacemaker placement.

Electrocardiogram (ECG) abnormalities were common among patients at baseline. ECG abnormalities on study did not usually result in symptoms, were not dose-limiting, and required no intervention. ECG abnormalities were noted in 23% of all patients. Among patients with a normal ECG prior to study entry, 14% of all patients developed an abnormal tracing while on study. The most frequently reported ECG modifications were non-specific repolarization abnormalities, sinus bradycardia, sinus tachycardia and premature beats. Among patients with normal ECGs at baseline, prior therapy with anthracyclines did not influence the frequency of ECG abnormalities.

Cases of myocardial infarction have been reported rarely. Congestive heart failure has been reported typically in patients who have received other chemotherapy, notably anthracyclines. (See **PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions** section.)

Rare reports of atrial fibrillation and supraventricular tachycardia have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety.

**Respiratory:** Rare reports of interstitial pneumonia, lung fibrosis and pulmonary embolism, have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety. Rare reports of radiation pneumonitis have been received in patients receiving concurrent radiotherapy.

**Neurologic:** The frequency and severity of neurologic manifestations were dose-dependent, but were not influenced by infusion duration. Peripheral neuropathy was observed in 60% of all patients (3% severe) and in 52% (2% severe) of the patients without pre-existing neuropathy.

The frequency of peripheral neuropathy increased with cumulative dose. Neurologic symptoms were observed in 27% of the patients after the first course of treatment and in 34-51% from course 2 to 10.

Peripheral neuropathy was the cause of TAXOL discontinuation in 1% of all patients. Sensory symptoms have usually improved or resolved within several months of TAXOL discontinuation. The incidence of neurologic symptoms did not increase in the subset of patients previously treated with cisplatin. Pre-existing neuropathies resulting from prior therapies are not a contraindication for TAXOL therapy.

Other than peripheral neuropathy, serious neurologic events following TAXOL administration have been rare (<1%) and have included grand mal seizures, syncope, ataxia and neuroencephalopathy.

Rare reports of autonomic neuropathy resulting in paralytic ileus have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety. Optic nerve and/or visual disturbances (scintillating scotomata) have also been reported, particularly in patients who have received higher doses than those recommended. These effects generally have been reversible. However, rare reports in the literature of abnormal visual evoked potentials in patients have suggested persistent optic nerve damage.

**Arthralgia/Myalgia:** There was no consistent relationship between dose or schedule of TAXOL and the frequency or severity of arthralgia/myalgia. Sixty percent of all patients treated experienced arthralgia/myalgia; 8% experienced severe symptoms. The symptoms were usually transient, occurred two or three days after TAXOL administration, and resolved within a few days. The frequency and severity of musculoskeletal symptoms remained unchanged throughout the treatment period.

**Hepatic:** No relationship was observed between liver function abnormalities and either dose or schedule of TAXOL administration. Among patients with normal baseline liver function 7%, 22% and 19% had elevations in bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase and AST (SGOT), respectively. Prolonged exposure to TAXOL was not associated with cumulative hepatic toxicity.

Rare reports of hepatic necrosis and hepatic encephalopathy leading to death have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety.

**Renal:** Among the patients treated for Kaposi's sarcoma with TAXOL, five patients had renal toxicity of grade III or IV severity. One patient with suspected HIV nephropathy of grade IV severity had to discontinue therapy. The other four patients had renal insufficiency with reversible elevations of serum creatinine.

**Gastrointestinal (GI):** Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea and mucositis were reported by 52%, 38% and 31% of all patients, respectively. These manifestations were usually mild to moderate. Mucositis was schedule dependent and occurred more frequently with the 24-hour than with the 3-hour infusion.

In patients with poor-risk AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea and mucositis were reported by 69%, 79% and 28% of patients, respectively. One-third of patients with Kaposi's sarcoma complained of diarrhea prior to study start. (See **CLINICAL STUDIES: AIDS-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma** section.)

In the first-line, phase 3 ovarian carcinoma study, the incidence of nausea and vomiting when TAXOL was administered in combination with cisplatin appeared to be greater compared with the database for single-agent

TAXOL in ovarian and breast carcinoma. In the same study, diarrhea of any grade was reported more frequently (16%) compared to the control arm (8%) ( $p=0.008$ ), but there was no difference for severe diarrhea.

Rare reports of intestinal obstruction, intestinal perforation, pancreatitis, ischemic colitis, and dehydration have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety. Rare reports of neutropenic enterocolitis (typhlitis), despite the coadministration of G-CSF, were observed in patients treated with TAXOL alone and in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents.

**Injection Site Reaction:** Injection site reactions, including reactions secondary to extravasation, were usually mild and consisted of erythema, tenderness, skin discoloration, or swelling at the injection site. These reactions have been observed more frequently with the 24-hour infusion than with the 3-hour infusion. Recurrence of skin reactions at a site of previous extravasation following administration of TAXOL at a different site, i.e., “recall”, has been reported rarely.

Rare reports of more severe events such as phlebitis, cellulitis, induration, skin exfoliation, necrosis and fibrosis have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety. In some cases the onset of the injection site reaction either occurred during a prolonged infusion or was delayed by a week to ten days.

A specific treatment for extravasation reactions is unknown at this time. Given the possibility of extravasation, it is advisable to closely monitor the infusion site for possible infiltration during drug administration.

**Other Clinical Events:** Alopecia was observed in almost all (87%) of the patients. Transient skin changes due to TAXOL related hypersensitivity reactions have been observed, but no other skin toxicities were significantly associated with TAXOL administration. Nail changes (changes in pigmentation or discoloration of nail bed) were uncommon (2%). Edema was reported in 21% of all patients (17% of those without baseline edema); only 1% had severe edema and none of these patients required treatment discontinuation. Edema was most commonly focal and disease-related. Edema was observed in 5% of all courses for patients with normal baseline and did not increase with time on study.

Rare reports of skin abnormalities related to radiation recall as well as reports of maculopapular rash and pruritus have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety.

Reports of asthenia and malaise have been received as part of the continuing surveillance of TAXOL safety. In the phase 3 trial of Taxol (135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 24 hours) in combination with cisplatin as first-line therapy of ovarian cancer, asthenia was reported in 17% of patients, significantly greater than the 10% incidence observed in the control arm of cyclophosphamide/cisplatin.

**Accidental Exposure:** Upon inhalation, dyspnea, chest pain, burning eyes, sore throat and nausea have been reported. Following topical exposure, events have included tingling, burning and redness.

## OVERDOSAGE

There is no known antidote to TAXOL overdose. The primary anticipated complications of overdose would consist of bone marrow suppression, peripheral neurotoxicity and mucositis. Overdoses in pediatric patients may be associated with acute ethanol toxicity (see **PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric Use** section).

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Note:** Contact of the undiluted concentrate with plasticized PVC equipment or devices used to prepare solutions for infusion is not recommended. In order to minimize patient exposure to the plasticizer DEHP [di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate], which may be leached from PVC infusion bags or sets, diluted TAXOL solutions should be stored in bottles (glass, polypropylene) or plastic bags (polypropylene, polyolefin) and administered through polyethylene-lined administration sets.

All patients should be premedicated prior to TAXOL administration in order to prevent severe hypersensitivity reactions. Such premedication may consist of dexamethasone 20 mg PO administered approximately 12 and 6 hours before TAXOL, diphenhydramine (or its equivalent) 50 mg I.V. 30 to 60 minutes prior to TAXOL, and cimetidine (300 mg) or ranitidine (50 mg) I.V. 30 to 60 minutes before TAXOL.

For patients with **carcinoma of the ovary**, the following regimens are recommended:

- (1) For previously untreated patients with carcinoma of the ovary, the recommended regimen, given every 3 weeks, is TAXOL administered intravenously over 24 hours at a dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> followed by cisplatin at a dose of 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.
- (2) In patients previously treated with chemotherapy for carcinoma of the ovary, TAXOL has been used at several doses and schedules; however, the optimal regimen is not yet clear (see **CLINICAL STUDIES: Ovarian Carcinoma** section). The recommended regimen is TAXOL 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> or 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> administered intravenously over 3 hours every 3 weeks.

For patients with **carcinoma of the breast**, TAXOL at a dose of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> administered intravenously over 3 hours every 3 weeks has been shown to be effective after failure of chemotherapy for metastatic disease or relapse within 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy. (See **CLINICAL STUDIES: Breast Carcinoma** section.)

For patients with **AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma**, TAXOL administered at a dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given intravenously over 3 hours every 3 weeks or at a dose of 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given intravenously over 3 hours every 2 weeks is recommended (dose intensity 45-50 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/week). In the two clinical trials evaluating these schedules (see **CLINICAL STUDIES: AIDS-related Kaposi's Sarcoma** section), the former schedule (135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 3 weeks) was more toxic than the latter. In addition, all patients with low performance status were treated with the latter schedule (100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 2 weeks).

Based upon the immunosuppression in patients with advanced HIV disease, the following modifications are recommended in these patients:

- 1) Reduce the dose of dexamethasone as one of the three premedication drugs to 10 mg PO (instead of 20 mg PO);
- 2) Initiate or repeat treatment with TAXOL only if the neutrophil count is at least 1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>;
- 3) Reduce the dose of subsequent courses of TAXOL by 20% for patients who experience severe neutropenia (neutrophil <500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> for a week or longer); and
- 4) Initiate concomitant hematopoietic growth factor (G-CSF) as clinically indicated.

For the therapy of patients with solid tumors (ovary and breast), courses of TAXOL should not be repeated until the neutrophil count is at least 1500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> and the platelet count is at least 100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. TAXOL should not be given to patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma if the baseline or subsequent neutrophil count is less than 1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. Patients who experience severe neutropenia (neutrophil <500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> for a week or longer) or severe peripheral neuropathy during TAXOL therapy should have dosage reduced by 20% for subsequent courses of TAXOL. The incidence of neurotoxicity and the severity of neutropenia increase with dose.

**Preparation and Administration Precautions:** TAXOL is a cytotoxic anticancer drug and, as with other potentially toxic compounds, caution should be exercised in handling TAXOL. The use of gloves is recommended. If TAXOL solution contacts the skin, wash the skin immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. Following topical exposure, events have included tingling, burning and redness. If TAXOL contacts mucous membranes, the membranes should be flushed thoroughly with water. Upon inhalation, dyspnea, chest pain, burning eyes, sore throat and nausea have been reported.

Given the possibility of extravasation, it is advisable to closely monitor the infusion site for possible infiltration during drug administration (see **PRECAUTIONS: Injection Site Reaction** section).

**Preparation for Intravenous Administration:** TAXOL (paclitaxel) Injection must be diluted prior to infusion. TAXOL should be diluted in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP, 5% Dextrose injection, USP, 5% Dextrose and 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP or 5% Dextrose in Ringer's Injection to a final concentration of 0.3 to 1.2 mg/mL. The solutions are physically and chemically stable for up to 27 hours at ambient temperature (approximately 25° C) and room lighting conditions. Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration whenever solution and container permit.

Upon preparation, solutions may show haziness, which is attributed to the formulation vehicle. No significant losses in potency have been noted following simulated delivery of the solution through I.V. tubing containing an in-line (0.22 micron) filter.

Data collected for the presence of the extractable plasticizer DEHP [di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate] show that levels increase with time and concentration when dilutions are prepared in PVC containers. Consequently, the use of plasticized PVC containers and administration sets is not recommended. TAXOL solutions should be prepared and stored in glass, polypropylene, or polyolefin containers. Non-PVC containing administration sets, such as those

which are polyethylene-lined, should be used.

TAXOL should be administered through an in-line filter with a microporous membrane not greater than 0.22 microns. Use of filter devices such as IVEX-2<sup>®</sup> filters which incorporate short inlet and outlet PVC-coated tubing has not resulted in significant leaching of DEHP.

The Chemo Dispensing Pin<sup>™</sup> device or similar devices with spikes should not be used with vials of TAXOL since they can cause the stopper to collapse resulting in loss of sterile integrity of the TAXOL solution.

**Stability:** Unopened vials of TAXOL (paclitaxel) Injection are stable until the date indicated on the package when stored between 20°-25°C (68°-77°F), in the original package. Neither freezing nor refrigeration adversely affects the stability of the product. Upon refrigeration components in the TAXOL vial may precipitate, but will redissolve upon reaching room temperature with little or no agitation. There is no impact on product quality under these circumstances. If the solution remains cloudy or if an insoluble precipitate is noted, the vial should be discarded. Solutions for infusion prepared as recommended are stable at ambient temperature (approximately 25°C) and lighting conditions for up to 27 hours.

#### HOW SUPPLIED

NDC 0015-3475-30      30 mg/5 mL multidose vial individually packaged in a carton.

NDC 0015-3476-30      100 mg/16.7 mL multidose vial individually packaged in a carton.

**Storage:** Store the vials in original cartons between 20°-25°C (68°-77°F). Retain in the original package to protect from light.

**Handling and Disposal:** Procedures for proper handling and disposal of anticancer drugs should be considered. Several guidelines on this subject have been published<sup>1-7</sup>. There is no general agreement that all of the procedures recommended in the guidelines are necessary or appropriate.

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IVEX-2<sup>®</sup> is the registered trademark of the Millipore Corporation.

Chemo Dispensing Pin<sup>™</sup> is a trademark of B. Braun Medical Incorporated.

**References:**

- 1 Recommendations for the safe handling of parenteral antineoplastic drugs. NIH Publication No. 83-2621. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.
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