

For the use of an Oncologists or a Hospital or laboratory only

NAB TORTAXEL

(Paclitaxel (Protein-Bound Particles) for Injectable Suspension)

COMPOSITION

Each vial contains:

Paclitaxel I.P..... 100 mg

Human Albumin I.P. q.s.

DOSAGE FORM

Lyophilized powder for suspension for infusion

INDICATION

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is indicated for the treatment of breast cancer after failure of combination chemotherapy for metastatic disease or relapse within 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy.

DOSE AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspensions should only be administered under the supervision of a qualified oncologist in units specialised in the administration of cytotoxic agents. It should not be substituted for or with other paclitaxel formulations.

Posology

Breast cancer

The recommended dose of paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is 260 mg/m² administered intravenously over 30 minutes every 3 weeks.

Dose adjustments during treatment of breast cancer

Patients who experience severe neutropenia (neutrophil count < 500 cells/mm³ for a week or longer) or severe sensory neuropathy during paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension therapy, should have the dose reduced to 220 mg/m² for subsequent courses. Following recurrence of severe neutropenia or severe sensory neuropathy, additional dose reduction should be made to 180 mg/m². Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension should not be administered until neutrophil counts recover to >1500 cells/mm³. For Grade 3 sensory neuropathy, withhold treatment until resolution to Grade 1 or 2, followed by a dose reduction for all subsequent courses.

Special populations

Patients with hepatic impairment

For patients with mild hepatic impairment (total bilirubin > 1 to ≤ 1.5 x ULN and aspartate aminotransferase [AST] ≤ 10 x ULN), no dose adjustments are required, regardless of indication. Treat with same doses as patients with normal hepatic function.

For metastatic breast cancer patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment (total bilirubin > 1.5 to ≤ 5 x ULN and AST ≤ 10 x ULN), a 20% reduction in dose is recommended. The

reduced dose may be escalated to the dose for patients with normal hepatic function if the patient is tolerating the treatment for at least two cycles.

For patients with total bilirubin $> 5 \times \text{ULN}$ or AST $> 10 \times \text{ULN}$, there are insufficient data to permit dosage recommendations regardless of indication.

Patients with renal impairment

Adjustment of the starting paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) injectable suspension dose is not required for patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (estimated creatinine clearance ≥ 30 to < 90 ml/min). There are insufficient data available to recommend dose modifications of paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) injectable suspension in patients with severe renal impairment or end stage renal disease (estimated Creatinine clearance < 30 ml/min)

Older people

No additional dosage reductions, other than those for all patients, are recommended for patients 65 years and older.

Of the 229 patients in the randomized study who received paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) injectable suspension monotherapy for breast cancer, 13% were at least 65 years of age and $< 2\%$ were 75 years and older. No toxicities occurred notably more frequently among patients at least 65 years of age who received paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) injectable suspension. However, a subsequent analysis in 981 patients receiving paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) injectable suspension monotherapy for metastatic breast cancer, of which 15% were ≥ 65 years old and 2% were ≥ 75 years old, showed a higher incidence of epistaxis, diarrhoea, dehydration, fatigue and peripheral oedema in patients ≥ 65 years.

Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic modelling using data from 125 patients with advanced solid tumours indicates that patients ≥ 65 years of age may be more susceptible to development of neutropenia within the first treatment cycle.

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) injectable suspension in children and adolescents aged 0-17 years has not been established. There is no relevant use of paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) injectable suspension in the paediatric population in the indication of metastatic breast cancer.

Preparation & administrative precautions

- Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is a cytotoxic anticancer drug and, as with other potentially toxic paclitaxel compounds, caution should be exercised in handling it. The use of gloves is recommended. If lyophilized cake or reconstituted suspension contacts the skin, wash the skin immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. Following topical exposure to paclitaxel, events may include tingling, burning and redness. If it contacts mucous membranes, the membranes should be flushed thoroughly with water.

- Given the possibility of extravasation, it is advisable to closely monitor the infusion site for possible infiltration during drug administration. Limiting the infusion to 30 minutes, as directed, reduces the likelihood of infusion-related reactions.
- No premedication to prevent hypersensitivity reactions is required prior to administration

Preparation for intravenous administration

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is supplied as sterile lyophilized powder for reconstitution before use.

AVOID ERRORS, READ ENTIRE PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO RECONSTITUTION.

Preparation Instructions prior to reconstitution

- Aseptically, reconstitute each vial by injecting 20 mL of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection IP.
- Slowly inject the 20 mL of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection IP over a minimum of 1 minute, using the sterile syringe to direct the solution flow onto THE INSIDE WALL OF THE VIAL.
- DO NOT INJECT the 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection IP directly onto the lyophilized cake as this will result in foaming. Once the injection is complete, allow the vial to sit for a minimum of 5 minutes to ensure proper wetting of the lyophilized cake/powder.
- Gently swirl and/or invert the vial slowly for at least 2 minutes until complete dissolution of any cake/powder occurs. Avoid generation of foam.
- If foaming or clumping occurs, stand solution for at least 15 minutes until foam subsides.

Each mL of the reconstituted formulation will contain 5 mg/mL paclitaxel. Calculate the exact total dosing volume of 5 mg/mL suspension required for the patient : $\text{Dosing volume (mL)} = \frac{\text{Total dose (mg)}}{5(\text{mg/mL})}$.

The reconstituted suspension should be milky and homogenous without visible particulates. If particulates or settling are visible, the vial should be gently inverted again to ensure complete resuspension prior to use. Discard the reconstituted suspension if precipitates are observed. Discard any unused portion.

Inject the appropriate amount of reconstituted Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension into an empty, sterile IV bag [plasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC) containers, PVC or non-PVC type IV bag]. The use of specialized DEHP-free solution containers or administration sets is not necessary to prepare or administer infusions. The use of an in-line filter is not recommended.

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration whenever solution and container permit.

Stability

Unopened vials of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension are stable until the date indicated on the package when stored between 20°C to 25°C in the original package. Neither freezing nor refrigeration adversely affects the stability of the product.

Stability of reconstituted suspension in the Vial

Reconstituted Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension should be used immediately, but may be refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C for a maximum of 8 hours if necessary. If not used immediately, each vial of reconstituted suspension should be replaced in the original carton to protect it from bright light. Discard any unused portion.

Stability of reconstituted suspension in the infusion bag

The suspension for infusion prepared as recommended in an infusion bag should be used immediately, but may be stored at ambient temperature (approximately 25°C) and lighting conditions for up to 4 hours. Discard any unused portion.

FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Contraception in males and females

Women of childbearing potential should use effective contraception during treatment and up to 1 month after receiving treatment with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Male patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension are advised not to father a child during and up to six months after treatment.

Pregnancy

There are very limited data on the use of paclitaxel in human pregnancy. Paclitaxel is suspected to cause serious birth defects when administered during pregnancy. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity. Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension should not be used in pregnancy, and in women of childbearing potential not using effective contraception, unless the clinical condition of the mother requires treatment with paclitaxel.

Breast-feeding

It is not known if paclitaxel is excreted in human milk. Because of potential serious adverse reactions in breastfeeding infants, Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is contraindicated during lactation. Breast-feeding must be discontinued for the duration of therapy.

Fertility

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension induced infertility in male rats. Male patients should seek advice on conservation of sperm prior to treatment because of the possibility of irreversible infertility due to therapy with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.
- Lactation.
- Patients who have baseline neutrophil counts <1500 cells/mm³.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is an albumin-bound nanoparticle formulation of paclitaxel, which may have substantially different pharmacological properties compared to other formulations of paclitaxel. It should not be substituted for or with other paclitaxel formulations.

Hypersensitivity

Rare occurrences of severe hypersensitivity reactions, including very rare events of anaphylactic reactions with fatal outcome, have been reported. If a hypersensitivity reaction occurs, the medicinal product should be discontinued immediately, symptomatic treatment should be initiated, and the patient should not be rechallenged with paclitaxel.

Haematology

Bone marrow suppression (primarily neutropenia) occurs frequently with paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Neutropenia is dose-dependent and a dose-limiting toxicity. Frequent monitoring of blood cell counts should be performed during Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension therapy.

Patients should not be retreated with subsequent cycles of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension until neutrophils recover to >1500 cells/mm³ and platelets recover to $>100,000$ cells/mm³.

Neuropathy

Sensory neuropathy occurs frequently with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension, although development of severe symptoms is less common. The occurrence of Grade 1 or 2 sensory neuropathy does not generally require dose reduction. When Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is used as monotherapy, if Grade 3 sensory neuropathy develops, treatment should be withheld until resolution to Grade 1 or 2 followed by a dose reduction for all subsequent courses of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is recommended. For combination use of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine, if Grade 3 or higher peripheral neuropathy develops, withhold Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension; continue treatment with gemcitabine at the same dose. Resume Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension at reduced dose when peripheral neuropathy improves to Grade 0 or 1. For combination use of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and carboplatin, if Grade 3 or higher peripheral neuropathy develops, treatment should be withheld until improvement to Grade 0 or 1 followed by a dose reduction for all subsequent courses of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and carboplatin.

Sepsis

Sepsis was reported at a rate of 5% in patients with or without neutropenia who received Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine. Complications due to the underlying pancreatic cancer, especially biliary obstruction or presence of biliary stent, were identified as significant contributing factors. If a patient becomes febrile (regardless of neutrophil count), initiate treatment with broad spectrum antibiotics. For febrile

neutropenia, withhold Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine until fever resolves and $ANC \geq 1500$ cells/mm³, and then resume treatment at reduced dose levels.

Pneumonitis

Pneumonitis occurred in 1% of patients when Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension was used as monotherapy and in 4% of patients when Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension was used in combination with gemcitabine. Closely monitor all patients for signs and symptoms of pneumonitis. After ruling out infectious etiology and upon making a diagnosis of pneumonitis, permanently discontinue treatment with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine and promptly initiate appropriate treatment and supportive measures.

Hepatic impairment

Because the toxicity of paclitaxel can be increased with hepatic impairment, administration of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in patients with hepatic impairment should be performed with caution. Patients with hepatic impairment may be at increased risk of toxicity, particularly from myelosuppression; such patients should be closely monitored for development of profound myelosuppression.

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is not recommended in patients that have total bilirubin > 5 x ULN or AST > 10 x ULN. In addition, Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension is not recommended in patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas that have moderate to severe hepatic impairment (total bilirubin > 1.5 x ULN and AST ≤ 10 x ULN).

Cardiotoxicity

Rare reports of congestive heart failure and left ventricular dysfunction have been observed among individuals receiving Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Most of the individuals were previously exposed to cardiotoxic medicinal products such as anthracyclines, or had underlying cardiac history. Thus patients receiving Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension should be vigilantly monitored by physicians for the occurrence of cardiac events.

CNS metastases

The effectiveness and safety of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in patients with central nervous system (CNS) metastases has not been established. CNS metastases are generally not well controlled by systemic chemotherapy.

Gastrointestinal symptoms

If patients experience nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea following the administration of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension, they may be treated with commonly used antiemetics and constipating agents.

Patients 75 years and older

For patients of 75 years and older, no benefit for the combination treatment of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine in comparison to gemcitabine monotherapy has been demonstrated. In the very elderly (≥ 75 years) who received Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine, there was a higher incidence of serious adverse reactions and adverse reactions that led to treatment discontinuation including haematologic toxicities, peripheral neuropathy, decreased appetite and dehydration. Patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma aged 75 years and older should be carefully assessed for their ability to tolerate Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine with special consideration to performance status, comorbidities and increased risk of infections.

Other

Although limited data is available, no clear benefit in terms of prolonged overall survival has been demonstrated in pancreatic adenocarcinoma patients with normal CA 19-9 levels prior to start of treatment with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine.

Erlotinib should not be coadministered with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension plus gemcitabine.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension has minor or moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension may cause adverse reactions such as tiredness (very common) and dizziness (common) that may affect the ability to drive and use machinery. Patients should be advised not to drive and use machines if they feel tired or dizzy.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

The metabolism of paclitaxel is catalysed, in part, by cytochrome P450 isoenzymes CYP2C8 and CYP3A4. Therefore, in the absence of a PK drug-drug interaction study, caution should be exercised when administering paclitaxel concomitantly with medicines known to inhibit (e.g. ketoconazole and other imidazole antifungals, erythromycin, fluoxetine, gemfibrozil, cimetidine, ritonavir, saquinavir, indinavir, and nelfinavir) or induce (e.g. rifampicin, carbamazepine, phenytoin, efavirenz, nevirapine) either CYP2C8 or CYP3A4.

Paclitaxel and gemcitabine do not share a common metabolic pathway. Paclitaxel clearance is primarily determined by CYP2C8 and CYP3A4 mediated metabolism followed by biliary excretion, while gemcitabine is inactivated by cytidine deaminase followed by urinary excretion. Pharmacokinetic interactions between Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine have not been evaluated in humans.

UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS

Summary of the safety profile

The most common clinically significant adverse reactions associated with the use of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension have been neutropenia, peripheral neuropathy, arthralgia/myalgia and gastrointestinal disorders.

The frequencies of adverse reactions associated with the administration of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension are listed in Table 1 (Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension as monotherapy) and Table 2 (Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine), and Table 3 (Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with carboplatin).

Frequencies are defined as: very common ($\geq 1/10$), common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1000$ to $< 1/100$), rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1000$), very rare ($< 1/10,000$). Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Breast cancer (Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension administered as monotherapy)

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Table 1 lists adverse reactions associated with the administration of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension to patients from studies in which Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension has been administered as monotherapy at any dose in any indication (N = 789).

Table 1: Adverse reactions reported with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension monotherapy at any dose in clinical studies

Infections and infestations	<i>Common:</i> Infection, urinary tract infection, folliculitis, upper respiratory tract infection, candidiasis, sinusitis <i>Uncommon:</i> Oral candidiasis, nasopharyngitis, cellulitis, herpes simplex, viral infection, pneumonia, catheter-related infection, fungal infection, herpes zoster, injection site infection, sepsis ² , neutropenic sepsis ²
Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (including cysts and polyps)	<i>Uncommon:</i> Metastatic pain, tumour necrosis
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Neutropenia, anaemia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, lymphopenia, bone marrow suppression <i>Common:</i> Febrile neutropenia <i>Rare:</i> Pancytopenia
Immune system disorders	<i>Uncommon</i> ¹ : Hypersensitivity <i>Rare:</i> Severe hypersensitivity
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Anorexia <i>Common:</i> Dehydration, decreased appetite, hypokalaemia <i>Uncommon:</i> Hypophosphataemia, fluid retention, hypoalbuminaemia, polydipsia, hyperglycaemia, hypocalcaemia, hypoglycaemia, hyponatraemia
Psychiatric disorders	<i>Common:</i> Insomnia, depression, anxiety <i>Uncommon:</i> Restlessness
Nervous system disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Peripheral neuropathy, neuropathy, hypoaesthesia,

	<p>paraesthesia</p> <p><i>Common:</i> Peripheral sensory neuropathy, headache, dysgeusia, dizziness, peripheral motor neuropathy, ataxia, sensory disturbance, somnolence</p> <p><i>Uncommon:</i> Polyneuropathy, areflexia, dyskinesia, hyporeflexia, neuralgia, sensory loss, syncope, postural dizziness, neuropathic pain, tremor</p>
Eye disorders	<p><i>Common:</i> Increased lacrimation, blurred vision, dry eye, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, madarosis</p> <p><i>Uncommon:</i> Eye irritation, eye pain, abnormal vision, reduced visual acuity, conjunctivitis, visual disturbance, eye pruritus, keratitis</p> <p><i>Rare:</i> Cystoid macular oedema²</p>
Ear and labyrinth disorders	<p><i>Common:</i> Vertigo</p> <p><i>Uncommon:</i> Ear pain, tinnitus</p>
Cardiac disorders	<p><i>Common:</i> Tachycardia, arrhythmia, supraventricular tachycardia</p> <p><i>Rare:</i> bradycardia, cardiac arrest, left ventricular dysfunction, congestive heart failure, atrioventricular block²</p>
Vascular disorders	<p><i>Common:</i> Flushing, hot flushes, hypertension, lymphoedema</p> <p><i>Uncommon:</i> Hypotension, peripheral coldness, orthostatic hypotension</p> <p><i>Rare:</i> Thrombosis</p>
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	<p><i>Common:</i> Interstitial pneumonitis³, dyspnoea, epistaxis, pharyngolaryngeal pain, cough, rhinitis, rhinorrhoea</p> <p><i>Uncommon:</i> Productive cough, exertional dyspnoea, sinus congestion, decreased breath sounds, pleural effusion, allergic rhinitis, hoarseness, nasal congestion, nasal dryness, wheezing, pulmonary emboli, pulmonary thromboembolism</p>
Gastrointestinal disorders	<p><i>Very common:</i> Nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, constipation, stomatitis</p> <p><i>Common:</i> Abdominal pain, abdominal distension, upper abdominal pain, dyspepsia, gastrooesophageal reflux disease, oral hypoesthesia</p> <p><i>Uncommon:</i> Dysphagia, flatulence, glossodynia, dry mouth, gingival pain, loose stools, oesophagitis, lower abdominal pain, mouth ulceration, oral pain, rectal haemorrhage</p>
Hepatobiliary disorders	<p><i>Uncommon:</i> Hepatomegaly</p>
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	<p><i>Very common:</i> Alopecia, rash</p> <p><i>Common:</i> Nail disorder, pruritus, dry skin, erythema, nail pigmentation/dicolouration, skin hyperpigmentation, onycholysis, nail changes</p> <p><i>Uncommon:</i> Nail bed tenderness, urticaria, skin pain, photosensitivity reaction, pigmentation disorder, pruritic rash, skin disorder, hyperhidrosis, onychomadesis, erythematous rash,</p>

	generalised rash, dermatitis, night sweats, maculo-papular rash, vitiligo, hypotrichosis, nail discomfort, generalized pruritus, macular rash, papular rash, skin lesion, swollen face <i>Very rare:</i> Stevens-Johnson syndrome ² , toxic epidermal necrolysis ²
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Arthralgia, myalgia. <i>Common:</i> Pain in extremity, bone pain, back pain, muscle cramps, limb pain <i>Uncommon:</i> Chest wall pain, muscular weakness, neck pain, groin pain, muscle spasms, musculoskeletal pain, flank pain, limb discomfort, muscle weakness
Renal and urinary disorders	<i>Uncommon:</i> Dysuria, pollakiuria, haematuria, nocturia, polyuria, urinary incontinence
Reproductive system and breast disorders	<i>Uncommon:</i> Breast pain
General disorders and administration site conditions	<i>Very common:</i> Fatigue, asthenia, pyrexia <i>Common:</i> Peripheral oedema, mucosal inflammation, pain, rigors, oedema, weakness, decreased performance status, chest pain, influenza-like illness, malaise, lethargy, hyperpyrexia <i>Uncommon:</i> Chest discomfort, abnormal gait, swelling, injection site reaction <i>Rare:</i> Extravasation
Investigations	<i>Common:</i> Decreased weight, increased alanine aminotransferase, increased aspartate aminotransferase, decreased haematocrit, decreased red blood cell count, increased body temperature, increased gamma-glutamyltransferase, increased blood alkaline phosphatase <i>Uncommon:</i> Increased blood pressure, increased weight, increased blood lactate dehydrogenase, increased blood creatinine, increased blood glucose, increased blood phosphorus, decreased blood potassium, increased bilirubin
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	<i>Uncommon:</i> Contusion <i>Rare:</i> Radiation recall phenomenon, radiation pneumonitis

MedDRA = Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities.

SMQ = Standardized MedDRA Query; SMQ is a grouping of several MedDRA preferred terms to capture a medical concept.

¹ The frequency of hypersensitivity reactions is calculated based on one definitely related case in a population of 789 patients.

² As reported in the post-marketing surveillance of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension.

³ The frequency of pneumonitis is calculated based on pooled data in 1310 patients in clinical trials receiving Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension monotherapy for breast cancer and for other indications using MedDRA SMQ Interstitial lung disease..

Description of selected adverse reactions

The following are the most common and clinically relevant adverse reactions related to 229 patients with metastatic breast cancer who were treated with 260 mg/m² Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension once every three weeks in the pivotal phase III clinical study.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Neutropenia was the most notable important haematological toxicity (reported in 79% of patients), and was rapidly reversible and dose dependent; leukopenia was reported in 71% of patients. Grade 4 neutropenia (< 500 cells/mm³) occurred in 9% of patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Febrile neutropenia occurred in four patients on Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Anaemia (Hb < 10 g/dl) was observed in 46% of patients on Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension, and was severe (Hb < 8 g/dl) in three cases. Lymphopenia was observed in 45% of the patient.

Nervous system disorders

In general, the frequency and severity of neurotoxicity was dose-dependent in patients receiving Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Peripheral neuropathy (mostly Grade 1 or 2 sensory neuropathy) was observed in 68% of patients on Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension with 10% being Grade 3, and no cases of Grade 4.

Gastrointestinal disorders

Nausea occurred in 29% of the patients and diarrhoea in 25% of the patients.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Alopecia was observed in >80% of the patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. The majority of alopecia events occurred less than one month after initiation of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Pronounced hair loss ≥50% is expected for the majority of patients who experience alopecia.

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Arthralgia occurred in 32% of patients on Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and was severe in 6% of cases. Myalgia occurred in 24% of patients on Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and was severe in 7% of cases. The symptoms were usually transient, typically occurred three days after Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension administration and resolved within a week.

General disorders and administration site conditions

Asthenia/Fatigue was reported in 40% of the patients.

Pancreatic adenocarcinoma (Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension administered in combination with gemcitabine)

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Adverse reactions were assessed in 421 patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine and 402 gemcitabine monotherapy-treated patients receiving first-line systemic treatment for metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas in a phase III randomized, controlled, open-label trial. Table 2 lists adverse reactions

assessed inpatients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine.

Table 2: Adverse reactions reported with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine (N =421)

Infections and infestations	<i>Common:</i> Sepsis, pneumonia, oral candidiasis
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Neutropenia, anaemia, thrombocytopenia <i>Common:</i> Pancytopenia <i>Uncommon:</i> Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Dehydration, decreased appetite, hypokalaemia
Psychiatric disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Insomnia, depression <i>Common:</i> Anxiety
Nervous system disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Peripheral neuropathy ¹ , dysgeusia, headache, dizziness <i>Uncommon:</i> VII th nerve paralysis
Eye disorders	<i>Common:</i> Lacrimation increased <i>Uncommon:</i> Cystoid macular oedema
Cardiac disorders	<i>Common:</i> Cardiac failure congestive, tachycardia
Vascular disorders	<i>Common:</i> Hypotension, hypertension
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Dyspnoea, epistaxis, cough <i>Common:</i> Pneumonitis ² , nasal congestion <i>Uncommon:</i> Dry throat, nasal dryness
Gastrointestinal disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, constipation, abdominal pain, abdominal pain upper <i>Common:</i> Stomatitis, intestinal obstruction, colitis, dry mouth
Hepatobiliary disorders	<i>Common:</i> Cholangitis
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Alopecia, rash <i>Common:</i> Pruritus, dry skin, nail disorder, flushing
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Pain in extremity, arthralgia, myalgia <i>Common:</i> Muscular weakness, bone pain
Renal and urinary disorders	<i>Common:</i> Acute renal failure <i>Uncommon:</i> Haemolyticuraemic syndrome
General disorders and administration site conditions	<i>Very common:</i> Fatigue, oedema peripheral, pyrexia, asthenia, chills <i>Common:</i> Infusion site reaction
Investigations	<i>Very common:</i> Weight decreased, alanine aminotransferase increased <i>Common:</i> Aspartate aminotransferase increased, blood bilirubin increased, blood creatinine increased

MedDRA = Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities; SMQ = Standardized MedDRA Query (a grouping of several MedDRA preferred terms to capture a medical concept).

¹ Peripheral neuropathy evaluated using the SMQ (broad scope).

² Pneumonitis is evaluated using the SMQ interstitial lung disease (broad scope)

In this phase III randomized, controlled, open-label trial, adverse reactions resulting in death within 30 days of the lastdose of study drug were reported for 4% of patients receiving Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine and for 4%of patients receiving gemcitabine monotherapy.

Description of selected adverse reactions

The following are the most common and important incidences of adverse reactions related to 421 patients withmetastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas who were treated with 125 mg/m²Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination withgemcitabine at a dose of 1000 mg/m² given on Days 1, 8 and 15 of each 28-day cycle in the phase III clinical study.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Table 3 provides the frequency and severity of haematologic laboratory-detected abnormalities for patients treatedwith Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine or with gemcitabine.

Table 3: Haematologic laboratory-detected abnormalities in pancreatic adenocarcinoma trial

	Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension (125 mg/m ²)/ Gemcitabine		Gemcitabine	
	Grades 1-4 (%)	Grade 3-4 (%)	Grades 1-4 (%)	Grade 3-4 (%)
Anaemia ^{a,b}	97	13	96	12
Neutropenia ^{a,b}	73	38	58	27
Thrombocytopenia ^{b,c}	74	13	70	9

^a 405 patients assessed in Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension /gemcitabine-treated group

^b 388 patients assessed in gemcitabine-treated group

^c 404 patients assessed in Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension /gemcitabine-treated group

Peripheral neuropathy

For patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine, the median time to first occurrence of Grade 3peripheral neuropathy was 140 days. The median time to improvement by at least 1 grade was 21 days, and themedian time to improvement from Grade 3 peripheral neuropathy to Grade 0 or 1 was 29 days. Of the patients withtreatment interrupted due to peripheral neuropathy, 44% (31/70 patients) were able to resume Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension at a

reduced dose. No patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine had Grade 4 peripheral neuropathy.

Sepsis

Sepsis was reported at a rate of 5% in patients with or without neutropenia who received Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine during the conduct of a trial in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. Complications due to the underlying pancreatic cancer, especially biliary obstruction or presence of biliary stent, were identified as significant contributing factors. If a patient becomes febrile (regardless of neutrophil count), initiate treatment with broad spectrum antibiotics.

For febrile neutropenia, withhold Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine until fever resolves and ANC \geq 1500 cells/mm³, then resume treatment at reduced dose levels.

Pneumonitis

Pneumonitis has been reported at a rate of 4% with the use of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine. Of the 17 cases of pneumonitis reported in patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with gemcitabine, 2 had a fatal outcome. Monitor patients closely for signs and symptoms of pneumonitis. After ruling out infectious etiology and upon making a diagnosis of pneumonitis, permanently discontinue treatment with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and gemcitabine and promptly initiate appropriate treatment and supportive measures.

Non-small cell lung cancer (Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension administered in combination with carboplatin)

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Table 4 lists adverse reactions associated with the administration of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with carboplatin.

Table 4: Adverse reactions reported with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension in combination with carboplatin (N = 514)

Infections and infestations	<i>Common:</i> Pneumonia, bronchitis, upper respiratory tract infection, urinary tract infection <i>Uncommon:</i> Sepsis, oral candidiasis
Blood and lymphatic system disorders ¹	<i>Very common:</i> Neutropenia ¹ , thrombocytopenia ¹ , anaemia ¹ , leukopenia ¹ <i>Common:</i> Febrile neutropenia, lymphopenia <i>Uncommon:</i> Pancytopenia
Immune system disorders	<i>Uncommon:</i> Drug hypersensitivity, hypersensitivity
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Decreased appetite <i>Common:</i> Dehydration
Psychiatric disorders	<i>Common:</i> Insomnia
Nervous system disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Peripheral neuropathy ²

	<i>Common:</i> Dysgeusia, headache, dizziness
Eye disorders	<i>Common:</i> Vision blurred
Vascular disorders	<i>Common:</i> Hypotension, hypertension <i>Uncommon:</i> Flushing
Respiratory thoracic and mediastinal disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Dyspnoea <i>Common:</i> Haemoptysis, epistaxis, cough <i>Uncommon:</i> Pneumonitis ³
Gastrointestinal disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea, constipation <i>Common:</i> Stomatitis, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, dysphagia
Hepatobiliary disorders	<i>Common:</i> Hyperbilirubinaemia
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Rash, alopecia <i>Common:</i> Pruritus, nail disorder <i>Uncommon:</i> Skin exfoliation, dermatitis allergic, urticaria
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	<i>Very common:</i> Arthralgia, myalgia <i>Common:</i> Back pain, pain in extremity, musculoskeletal pain
General disorders and administration site conditions	<i>Very common:</i> Fatigue, asthenia, oedema peripheral <i>Common:</i> Pyrexia, chest pain <i>Uncommon:</i> Mucosal inflammation, infusion site extravasation, infusion site inflammation, infusion site rash
Investigations	<i>Common:</i> Alanine aminotransferase increased, aspartate aminotransferase increased, blood alkaline phosphatase increased, weight decreased

MedDRA = Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities: SMQ = Standardized MedDRA Query

¹ Based on laboratory assessments: maximal degree of myelosuppression (treated population)

² Peripheral neuropathy is evaluated using the SMQ neuropathy (broad scope)

³ Pneumonitis is evaluated using the SMQ interstitial lung disease (broad scope)

For non-small cell lung cancer patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and carboplatin, the median time to first occurrence of Grade 3 treatment related peripheral neuropathy was 121 days, and the median time to improvement from Grade 3 treatment related peripheral neuropathy to Grade 1 was 38 days. No patients treated with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and carboplatin experienced Grade 4 peripheral neuropathy.

Anemia and thrombocytopenia were more commonly reported in the Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension arm than in the Taxol arm (54% versus 28% and 45% versus 27% respectively).

Patient-reported taxane toxicity was assessed using the 4 subscales of the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy (FACT)-Taxane questionnaire. Using repeated measure analysis, 3 of the 4 subscales (peripheral neuropathy, pain hands/feet, and hearing) favored Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension and carboplatin ($p \leq 0.002$). For the other subscale (oedema), there was no difference in the treatment arms.

Post-marketing experience

Cranial nerve palsies, vocal cord paresis, and rare reports of severe hypersensitivity reactions have been reported during post-marketing surveillance of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension.

There have been rare reports of reduced visual acuity due to cystoid macular oedema during treatment with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Upon diagnosis of cystoid macular oedema, treatment with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension should be discontinued.

In some patients previously exposed to capecitabine, reports of palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia have been reported as part of the continuing surveillance of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension. Because these events have been reported voluntarily during clinical practice, true estimates of frequency cannot be made and a causal relationship to the events has not been established.

OVERDOSE

There is no known antidote for paclitaxel overdose. In the event of an overdose, the patient should be closely monitored. Treatment should be directed at the major anticipated toxicities, which are bone marrow suppression, mucositis and peripheral neuropathy.

PHARMACODYNAMIC AND PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTIES

Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antineoplastic agents, plant alkaloids and other natural products, taxanes, ATC Code: L01CD01

Mechanism of action

Paclitaxel is an antimicrotubule agent that promotes the assembly of microtubules from tubulin dimers and stabilizes microtubules by preventing depolymerisation. This stability results in the inhibition of the normal dynamic reorganisation 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.

Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension contains human serum albumin-paclitaxel nanoparticles of approximately 130 nm in size, where the paclitaxel is present in a non-crystalline, amorphous state. Upon intravenous administration, the nanoparticles dissociate rapidly into soluble, albumin bound paclitaxel complexes of approximately 10 nm in size. Albumin is known to mediate endothelial caveolar transcytosis of plasma constituents, and *in vitro* studies demonstrated that the presence of albumin in Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension enhances transport of paclitaxel across endothelial cells. It is hypothesised that this enhanced transendothelial caveolar transport is mediated by the gp-60 albumin receptor, and that there is enhanced accumulation of paclitaxel in the area of tumour due to the albumin-binding protein Secreted Protein Acidic Rich in Cysteine (SPARC).

Pharmacokinetic properties

The pharmacokinetics of total paclitaxel following 30- and 180-minute infusions of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension at dose levels of 80 to 375 mg/m² were determined in clinical studies. The paclitaxel exposure (AUC) increased linearly from 2653 to 16736 ng.hr/ml following dosing from 80 to 300 mg/m².

In a study in patients with advanced solid tumours, the pharmacokinetic characteristics of paclitaxel following Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension administered intravenously at 260 mg/m² over 30 minutes were compared with those following 175 mg/m² of the solvent-based paclitaxel injection administered over 3 hours. Based on non-compartmental PK analysis, the plasma clearance of paclitaxel with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension was larger (43%) than that following a solvent-based paclitaxel injection and its volume of distribution was also higher (53%). There were no differences in terminal half-lives.

In a repeat dose study with 12 patients receiving Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension administered intravenously at 260 mg/m², intrapatient variability in AUC was 19% (range = 3.21%-27.70%). There was no evidence for accumulation of paclitaxel with multiple treatment courses.

Distribution

Following Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension administration to patients with solid tumours, paclitaxel is evenly distributed into blood cells and plasma and is highly bound to plasma proteins (94%).

The protein binding of paclitaxel following Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension was evaluated by ultrafiltration in a within-patient comparison study. The fraction of free paclitaxel was significantly higher with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension (6.2%) than with solvent-based paclitaxel (2.3%). This resulted in significantly higher exposure to unbound paclitaxel with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension compared with solvent-based paclitaxel, even though the total exposure is comparable. This is possibly due to paclitaxel not being trapped in Cremophor EL micelles as with solvent-based paclitaxel. Based on the published literature, *in vitro* studies of binding to human serum proteins, (using paclitaxel at concentrations ranging from 0.1 to 50 µg/ml), indicate that the presence of cimetidine, ranitidine, dexamethasone, or diphenhydramine did not affect protein binding of paclitaxel.

Based on population pharmacokinetic analysis, the total volume of distribution is approximately 1741 L; the large volume of distribution indicates extensive extravascular distribution and/or tissue binding of paclitaxel.

Biotransformation and elimination

Based on the published literature, *in vitro* studies with human liver microsomes and tissue slices show that paclitaxel is metabolised primarily to 6 α -hydroxypaclitaxel; and to two minor metabolites, 3'-*p*-hydroxypaclitaxel and 6 α -3'-*p*dihydroxypaclitaxel.

The formation of these hydroxylated metabolites is catalysed by CYP2C8, CYP3A4, and both CYP2C8 and CYP3A4 isoenzymes, respectively.

In patients with metastatic breast cancer, after a 30-minute infusion of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension at 260 mg/m^2 , the mean value for cumulative urinary excretion of unchanged active substance accounted for 4% of the total administered dose with less than 1% as the metabolites 6 α -hydroxypaclitaxel and 3'-*p*-hydroxypaclitaxel, indicating extensive non-renal clearance.

Paclitaxel is principally eliminated by hepatic metabolism and biliary excretion. At the clinical dose range of 80 to 300 mg/m^2 , the mean plasma clearance of paclitaxel ranges from 13 to 30 L/h/m^2 , and the mean terminal half-life ranges from 13 to 27 hours.

Hepatic impairment

The effect of hepatic impairment on population pharmacokinetics of Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension was studied in patients with advanced solid tumours. This analysis included patients with normal hepatic function ($n=130$), and pre-existing mild ($n=8$), moderate ($n=7$), or severe ($n=5$) hepatic impairment (according to NCI Organ Dysfunction Working Group criteria).

The results show that mild hepatic impairment (total bilirubin >1 to $\leq 1.5 \times \text{ULN}$) has no clinically important effect on pharmacokinetics of paclitaxel. Patients with moderate (total bilirubin >1.5 to $\leq 3 \times \text{ULN}$) or severe (total bilirubin >3 to $\leq 5 \times \text{ULN}$) hepatic impairment have a 22% to 26% decrease in the maximum elimination rate of paclitaxel and approximately 20% increase in mean paclitaxel AUC compared with patients with normal hepatic function. Hepatic impairment has no effect on mean paclitaxel C_{max} . In addition, elimination of paclitaxel shows an inverse correlation with total bilirubin and a positive correlation with serum albumin.

Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic modeling indicates that there is no correlation between hepatic function (as indicated by the baseline albumin or total bilirubin level) and neutropenia after adjusting for Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension exposure.

Pharmacokinetic data are not available for patients with total bilirubin $>5 \times \text{ULN}$ or for patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas.

Renal impairment

Population pharmacokinetic analysis included patients with normal renal function ($n=65$), and pre-existing mild ($n=61$), moderate ($n=23$), or severe ($n=1$) renal impairment (according to draft FDA guidance criteria 2010). Mild to moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance ≥ 30 to $<90 \text{ ml/min}$) has no clinically important effect on the maximum elimination rate and systemic exposure (AUC and C_{max}) of paclitaxel. Pharmacokinetic data are insufficient for patients with severe renal impairment and not available for patients with end stage kidney disease.

Older people

Population pharmacokinetic analysis for Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension included patients with ages ranging from 24 to 85 years old and shows that age does

not significantly influence the maximum elimination rate and systemic exposure (AUC and C_{max}) of paclitaxel.

Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic modelling using data from 125 patients with advanced solid tumours indicates that patients ≥ 65 years of age may be more susceptible to development of neutropenia within the first treatment cycle, although the plasma paclitaxel exposure is not affected by age.

Other intrinsic factors

Population pharmacokinetic analyses for Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension indicate that gender, race (Asian vs. White), and type of solid tumours do not have a clinically important effect on systemic exposure (AUC and C_{max}) of paclitaxel. Patients weighing 50 kg had paclitaxel AUC approximately 25% lower than those weighing 75 kg. The clinical relevance of this finding is uncertain.

Preclinical safety data

The carcinogenic potential of paclitaxel has not been studied. However, based on the published literature, paclitaxel is a potentially carcinogenic and genotoxic agent at clinical doses, based upon its pharmacodynamic mechanism of action. Paclitaxel has been shown to be clastogenic *in vitro* (chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes) and *in vivo* (micronucleus test in mice). Paclitaxel has been shown to be genotoxic *in vivo* (micronucleus test in mice), but it did not induce mutagenicity in the Ames test or the Chinese hamster ovary/hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (CHO/HGPRT) gene mutation assay.

Paclitaxel at doses below the human therapeutic dose was associated with low fertility and foetal toxicity in rats. Animal studies with Paclitaxel (protein-bound particles) for injectable suspension showed non-reversible, toxic effects on the male reproductive organs at clinically relevant exposure levels.

EXPIRY DATE

Do not use later than date of expiry.

PACKAGING INFORMATION

Paclitaxel (Protein-Bound Particles) for Injectable Suspension is available in 50 mL vial.

For : 100 mg per vial : 50 mL U.S.P. Type-I clear tubular glass vial

STORAGE AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Store vial in its original carton at controlled room temperature between 20°C and 25°C. Protect from bright light. Keep out of reach of children.

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