

## PACLITAXEL FOR INJECTION USP

6 mg/mL • Sterile

**THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION.**  
ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENT

**PACLITAXEL FOR INJECTION USP SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICIAN EXPERIENCED IN THE USE OF CANCER CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS.**

**PATIENTS RECEIVING PACLITAXEL FOR INJECTION USP SHOULD BE PRETREATED WITH CORTICOSTEROIDS, ANTIHISTAMINES, AND H<sub>2</sub> ANTAGONISTS (SUCH AS DEXAMETHASONE, DIPHENHYDRAMINE AND CIMETIDINE OR RANITIDINE) TO MINIMIZE HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTIONS (SEE DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). SEVERE HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTIONS CHARACTERIZED BY DYSPNEA AND HYPOTENSION REQUIRING TREATMENT, ANGIOEDEMA, AND GENERALIZED URTICARIA HAVE OCCURRED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING PACLITAXEL. THESE REACTIONS ARE PROBABLY IMMEDIATE MEDIATED. RARE FATAL REACTIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN PATIENTS DESPITE PRE-TREATMENT. PATIENTS WHO EXPERIENCE SEVERE HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTIONS TO PACLITAXEL FOR INJECTION USP SHOULD NOT BE RECHALLENGED WITH THE DRUG.**

#### ACTIONS AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Paclitaxel for Injection USP is a novel antimicrotubule agent that promotes the assembly of microtubules from tubulin dimers and stabilizes microtubules by preventing depolymerization.

*In vitro*, paclitaxel exhibits cytotoxic activity against a wide variety of both human and rodent tumor cell lines including leukemia, non-small cell lung carcinoma, small cell lung carcinoma, colon carcinoma, CNS carcinoma, melanoma, renal carcinoma, ovarian carcinoma and breast carcinoma.

The pharmacokinetics of paclitaxel have been evaluated over a wide range of doses, up to 300 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and infusion schedules ranging from 3 to 24 hours. Following intravenous administration of paclitaxel, the drug exhibited a biphasic decline in plasma concentrations. 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. In patients treated with doses of 135 and 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given 3 and 24 hour infusions, mean terminal half-life has ranged from 3.0 to 52.7 hours, and total body clearance has ranged from 11.6 to 24.0 L/h/m<sup>2</sup>. Mean steady state volume of distribution has ranged from 198 to 688 L/m<sup>2</sup>, indicating extensive extravascular distribution and/or tissue binding.

Following 3-hour infusions of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, mean terminal half-life was estimated to be 9.9 hours; mean total body clearance was 12.4 L/h/m<sup>2</sup>. Variability in systemic paclitaxel exposure, as measured by AUC<sub>0-∞</sub>, for successive treatment courses was minimal; there was no evidence of accumulation of paclitaxel with multiple treatment courses.

The pharmacokinetics of paclitaxel have been shown to be non-linear. There is a disproportionately large increase in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC with increasing dose, accompanied by an apparent dose-related decrease in total body clearance. These findings are most readily observed in patients in whom high plasma concentrations of paclitaxel are achieved. Saturable processes in distribution and elimination/metabolism may account for these findings.

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

*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 (see **PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions**). The effect of renal or hepatic dysfunction on the disposition of paclitaxel has not been investigated. The disposition of paclitaxel has not been fully elucidated in humans. After intravenous administration of paclitaxel, mean values for cumulative urinary recovery of unchanged drug ranged from 1.3 to 12.7% of the dose, indicating extensive non-renal clearance. In five patients administered a 225 or 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose of radiolabeled paclitaxel as a 3-hour infusion, 14% of the radioactivity was recovered in the urine and 71% was excreted in the feces in 120 hours. 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.

#### INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

Paclitaxel for Injection USP is indicated, alone or in combination, for the treatment of carcinoma of the ovary, breast, lung, or AIDS-related Kaposi's Sarcoma.

#### Ovarian Carcinoma

- First-line treatment in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents.
- Second-line treatment of metastatic carcinoma of the ovary after failure of standard therapy.

#### Breast Carcinoma

- Adjuvant treatment of node-positive breast cancer administered sequentially to standard combination therapy. In the clinical trial, there was an overall favorable effect on disease-free and overall survival in the total population of patients with receptor-positive and receptor-negative tumours, but the benefit has been specifically

demonstrated by available data (median follow-up 30 months) only in the patients with estrogen and progesterone receptor-negative tumours.

- Second-line treatment of metastatic carcinoma of the breast after failure of standard therapy.

#### Lung Carcinoma

- First-line treatment of advanced non-small cell lung cancer.

#### Kaposi's Sarcoma

- Treatment of advanced, liposomal anthracycline-refractory AIDS-related Kaposi's Sarcoma.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

Paclitaxel for Injection USP is contraindicated in patients who have a history of severe hypersensitivity reactions to paclitaxel or Polyoxy 35 Castor Oil.

Paclitaxel for Injection USP should not be used in patients with severe baseline neutropenia (<1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) nor in patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's Sarcoma with baseline or subsequent neutrophil counts of <1,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

#### WARNINGS

Paclitaxel for Injection USP should be administered under the supervision of a physician experienced in the use of cancer chemotherapeutic agents.

Paclitaxel for Injection USP should be administered as a diluted infusion. Patients receiving Paclitaxel for Injection USP should be pretreated with corticosteroids, antihistamines, and H<sub>2</sub> antagonists (such as dexamethasone, diphenhydramine and cimetidine or ranitidine)

to minimize hypersensitivity reactions (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**). Anaphylactic and severe hypersensitivity reactions characterized by dyspnea and hypotension requiring treatment, angioedema, or generalized urticaria have occurred in approximately 2% of patients receiving paclitaxel. These reactions are probably histamine-mediated. Rare fatal reactions have occurred in patients despite pretreatment. In case of a severe hypersensitivity reaction, Paclitaxel for Injection USP infusion should be discontinued immediately and the patient should not be rechallenged with the drug (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

Paclitaxel for Injection USP should not be administered to patients with baseline neutrophil counts of less than 1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (<1,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) for patients with Kaposi's Sarcoma). Bone marrow suppression (primarily neutropenia) is dose and schedule dependent and is the dose-limiting toxicity within a regimen. Neutrophil nadirs occurred at a median of 11.5 days. Frequent monitoring of blood counts should be instituted during Paclitaxel for Injection USP treatment. Patients should not be retreated with subsequent cycles of Paclitaxel for Injection USP until neutrophils recover to a level >1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (>1,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) for patients with Kaposi's Sarcoma) and platelets recover to a level >100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Severe cardiac conduction abnormalities have been reported in < 1% of patients during paclitaxel therapy. If patients develop significant conduction abnormalities during administration, appropriate therapy should be administered and continuous electrocardiographic monitoring should be performed during subsequent therapy with Paclitaxel for Injection USP (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

Use in Pregnancy

Paclitaxel for Injection USP may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Paclitaxel has been shown to be embryotoxic and fetotoxic in rabbits and to decrease fertility in rats. There are no studies in pregnant women. Women of childbearing potential should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant during therapy with Paclitaxel for Injection USP. If Paclitaxel for Injection USP is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while receiving this drug, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard.

#### Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether Paclitaxel for Injection USP is excreted in human milk. Breast feeding should be discontinued for the duration of Paclitaxel for Injection USP therapy.

#### Use in Children

The safety and effectiveness of Paclitaxel for Injection USP 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 paclitaxel 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 paclitaxel vehicle given over a short infusion time. The use of concomitant anti-histamines 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 Paclitaxel for Injection USP for use in this population.

#### 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 Paclitaxel for Injection USP solutions should preferably be stored in bottles (glass, polypropylene) or plastic bags (polypropylene, polyolefin) and administered through polyethylene-lined administration sets.

#### Drug Interactions

Cisplatin.

In a Phase I trial in which paclitaxel was administered as a 24-hour infusion and cisplatin was administered as a 1 mg/min infusion, myelosuppression was more profound when paclitaxel was given after cisplatin than with the alternate sequence (i.e. paclitaxel before cisplatin). When paclitaxel is given before cisplatin, the safety profile of paclitaxel is consistent with that reported for single-agent use. Pharmacokinetic data from these patients demonstrated a decrease in paclitaxel clearance of approximately 33% when paclitaxel was administered following cisplatin. Therefore, Paclitaxel for Injection USP should be given before cisplatin when used in combination.

#### Cimetidine.

The effect of cimetidine premedication on the metabolism of paclitaxel has been investigated; the clearance of paclitaxel was not affected by cimetidine pretreatment.

#### Substrates, Inducers, Inhibitors of Cytochrome P450 2C8 and 3A4

The metabolism of Paclitaxel for Injection USP is catalyzed by cytochrome P450 isoenzymes CYP2C8 and CYP3A4. Caution should be exercised when administering Paclitaxel for Injection USP concomitantly with known substrates, inducers or inhibitors of the cytochrome P450 isoenzymes CYP2C8 and CYP3A4. *In vitro*, the metabolism of paclitaxel to 6α-hydroxypaclitaxel was inhibited by a number of agents (ketozonazole, verapamil, diazepam, quinidine, dexamethasone, cyclosporine, teniposide, clopidogrel, and vincristine), but the concentrations used exceeded those found *in vivo* following normal therapeutic doses. Testosterone, 17α-ethinyl estradiol, retinoic acid, montelukast 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.

Potential interactions between Paclitaxel for Injection USP, a substrate of CYP3A4, and protease inhibitors (nelfinavir, saquinavir, indinavir, and nelfinavir), which are substrates and/or inhibitors of CYP3A4, have not been evaluated in clinical trials. Caution and close monitoring of liver function is required, further, no unapproved (e.g., investigational) protease inhibitor should be administered with Paclitaxel for Injection USP.

#### Doxorubicin.

Sequence effects characterized by more profound neutropenic and stomatitis episodes, have been observed with combination use of paclitaxel and doxorubicin when paclitaxel was administered BEFORE doxorubicin and using longer than recommended infusion times (paclitaxel administered over 24 hours; doxorubicin administered over 48 hours).

Plasma levels of doxorubicin (and its active metabolite doxorubicinol) may be increased when Paclitaxel for Injection USP and doxorubicin are used in combination. However, data from a trial using bolus doxorubicin and 3-hour paclitaxel infusion found no sequence effects on the pattern of toxicity.

#### Hematology.

Paclitaxel for Injection USP should not be administered to patients with baseline neutrophil counts of less than 1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (see **WARNINGS, CONTRAINDICATIONS**). In order to monitor the occurrence of myelotoxicity, it is recommended that frequent peripheral blood cell counts be performed on all patients receiving Paclitaxel for Injection USP. Patients should not be retreated with subsequent cycles of Paclitaxel for Injection USP 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>) during a course of Paclitaxel for Injection USP 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, Paclitaxel for Injection USP, at the recommended dose for this disease, can be initiated and repeated if the neutrophil count is at least 1,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

#### Hypersensitivity Reactions.

Patients with a history of severe hypersensitivity reactions to products containing Polyoxy 35 Castor Oil should not be treated with Paclitaxel for Injection USP (see **WARNINGS, CONTRAINDICATIONS**). 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 Paclitaxel for Injection USP and aggressive symptomatic therapy. Patients who have developed severe hypersensitivity reactions should not be rechallenged with Paclitaxel for Injection USP.

#### Cardiovascular.

Hypotension, hypertension and bradycardia have been observed during Paclitaxel for Injection USP administration; patients are usually asymptomatic and generally do not require treatment. In severe cases, Paclitaxel for Injection USP infusions may need to be interrupted or discontinued at the discretion of the treating physician. Frequent monitoring of vital signs, particularly during the first hour of Paclitaxel for Injection USP infusion, is recommended. Continuous cardiac monitoring is not required except for patients who develop serious conduction abnormalities (see **WARNINGS, ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

#### Nervous System.

Although the occurrence of peripheral neuropathy is frequent, the development of severe symptomatic neuropathy is unusual. A dose reduction of 20% is recommended for all subsequent courses of Paclitaxel for Injection USP for severe neuropathy (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Paclitaxel for Injection USP contains anhydrous ethanol, 396 mg/mL; consideration should be given to possible CNS and other effects of ethanol. Children may be more sensitive than the adults to the effects of ethanol (see **WARNINGS, Use in Children**).

#### Hepatic.

There is evidence that the toxicity of paclitaxel is enhanced in patients with elevated liver enzymes. Caution should be exercised when administering Paclitaxel for Injection USP to patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment and dose adjustments should be considered (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

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 paclitaxel 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 paclitaxel 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.

#### Driving/Operating Machinery

Since Paclitaxel for Injection USP contains ethanol, consideration should be given to the possibility of CNS and other effects.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

The frequency and severity of adverse events are generally similar between patients receiving paclitaxel for the treatment of ovarian, breast, non-small cell lung 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.

The incidences of adverse reactions in the table that follows are derived from ten clinical trials in carcinoma of the ovary and of the breast involving 812 patients treated with single-agent paclitaxel at doses ranging from 135-300 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day and schedules of 3 or 24 hours. Data from a subset of 181 patients treated at the recommended dose of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and a 3-hour infusion schedule is also included in the table.

	135-300 mg/m <sup>2</sup> % of Patients N=812	175 mg/m <sup>2</sup> % of Patients N=181
<b>Bone Marrow</b>		
Neutropenia < 2,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	90	87
< 500/mm <sup>3</sup>	52	27
< 4,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	90	86
< 1,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	17	4
Thrombocytopenia < 100,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	7	6
< 50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	20	1
Anemia < 11 g/dL	78	62
< 8 g/dL	16	6
Infections	30	18
Bleeding	14	9
Red Cell Transfusions	25	12
Red Cell Transfusions (normal baseline)	12	6
Platelet Transfusions	2	0
<b>Hypersensitivity Reactions.</b>		
All	41	40
Severe	2	1
<b>Cardiovascular.</b>		
Bradycardia (first 3 hours of infusion)	3	3
Hypotension (first 3 hours of infusion)	12	11
Severe events	1	2
<b>Abnormal ECG.</b>		
All Patients	23	13
Patients with normal baseline	14	8
<b>Peripheral Neuropathy.</b>		
Any symptoms	60	64
Severe symptoms	3	4
<b>Myalgia/Arthralgia.</b>		
Any symptoms	60	54
Severe symptoms	8	12

	135-300 mg/m <sup>2</sup> % of Patients N=812	175 mg/m <sup>2</sup> % of Patients N=181
<b>Gastrointestinal.</b>		
Nausea and vomiting	52	44
Diarrhea	31	25
Mucositis	38	20
<b> Alopecia</b>	87	93
<b>Hepatic (Patients with normal baseline)</b>		
Bilirubin elevations	7	4
Alkaline phosphatase elevations	22	18
AST elevations	19	18
<b>Injection site reactions.</b>	13	4

Safety referring to a large randomized trial of paclitaxel (135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 24 hours) / cisplatin (75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) versus cyclophosphamide/cisplatin, including 410 patients (196 receiving paclitaxel), has been evaluated. The combination of paclitaxel with platinum agents has not resulted in any clinically relevant changes to the safety profile of the drug when used at the recommended dosage.

Safety data were collected for 3,121 patients in the Phase III adjuvant breast carcinoma study. The adverse event profile for the patients who received paclitaxel subsequent to cyclophosphamide and doxorubicin was consistent with that seen in the pooled analysis of data from 812 patients treated with single-agent paclitaxel in 10 clinical studies.

#### SUMMARY OF 3-HOUR INFUSION DATA AT A DOSE OF 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

Unless otherwise stated, the following safety data relate to 62 patients with ovarian cancer and 119 patients with breast cancer treated at a dose of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and a 3-hour infusion schedule. In phase III clinical trials, All patients were premedicated to minimize hypersensitivity reactions. Data from these clinical trials demonstrate that paclitaxel given at this dose and schedule is well tolerated. Bone marrow suppression and peripheral neuropathy were the principle dose-related adverse effects associated with paclitaxel. Compared to 24-hour infusion schedules, neutropenia was less common when paclitaxel was given as a 3-hour infusion. Neutropenia was generally rapidly reversible and did not worsen with cumulative exposure. The frequency of neurologic symptoms increases with repeated exposure.

None of the observed toxicities were influenced by age.

#### AIDS-RELATED KAPOSI'S SARCOMA

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

	Frequency of Important* Adverse Events in the AIDS-Related Kaposi's Sarcoma Studies	
	Percent of Patients	
	Study CA139-174 135.9 <sup>†</sup> /2 wk (n = 29)	Study CA139-281 100.9 <sup>‡</sup> /2 wk (n = 56)
<b>Bone Marrow</b>		
Neutropenia < 2,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	100	95
< 500/mm <sup>3</sup>	76	35
Thrombocytopenia < 100,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	17	27
< 50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	52	5
Anemia < 11 g/dL	86	73
< 8 g/dL	34	25
Febrile Neutropenia	55	9
<b>Opportunistic Infections.</b>		
<i>Cytomegalovirus</i>	76	54
<i>Herpes Simplex</i>	38	11
<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i>	14	21
<i>M. avium intracellulare</i>	24	4
Candidiasis, esophageal	7	9
Cryptosporidiosis	7	7
Cryptococcal meningitis	3	2
<i>Herpes</i> encephalopathy	—	2
<b>Hypersensitivity Reaction*</b>		
All	14	9
<b>Cardiovascular.</b>		
Hypotension	17	9
Bradycardia	3	—
<b>Peripheral Neuropathy</b>		
Any	79	46
Severe**	14	16
<b>Myalgia/Arthralgia.</b>		
Any	93	48
Severe**	14	16
<b>Gastrointestinal.</b>		
Nausea and vomiting	69	70
Diarrhea	40	23
Mucositis	45	20
<b>Renal</b> (Creatinine elevation)		
Any	34	18
Severe**	7	5
<b>Discontinuation for drug toxicity</b>	7	16

\*Based on worst case analysis.

<sup>†</sup>Paclitaxel 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> in mg/m<sup>2</sup>/infusion duration in hours.

<sup>‡</sup>All patients received premedication.

\*\*Clinically relevant and/or possibly related.

\*\* Severe events are defined as at least Grade III toxicity.

As demonstrated in the above table, toxicity was more pronounced in the study utilizing paclitaxel at a dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 3 weeks than in the study utilizing paclitaxel 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 below, should be taken into account.

#### Adverse Experiences by Body System

Unless otherwise noted, the following discussion refers to the overall safety database of 812 patients with solid tumours treated with single-agent paclitaxel in 10 clinical studies. Toxicities that occurred with greater severity or frequency in previously untreated patients with ovarian carcinoma or NSCLC who received paclitaxel in combination with cisplatin or in patients with breast cancer who received paclitaxel after doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide in the adjuvant setting, or in patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's Sarcoma that also occurred with a difference that was clinically significant in these populations are also described. In addition, rare events have been reported from postmarketing experience or from other clinical studies.

The frequency and severity of adverse events have been generally similar for all patients receiving paclitaxel. However, 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. 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.

#### Hematologic.

The most frequent significant undesirable effect of paclitaxel was bone marrow suppression. Neutropenia was dose and schedule dependent and was generally rapidly reversible. Severe neutropenia (<500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) occurred in 27% of patients treated at a dose of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, but was not associated with febrile episodes. Only 1% of patients experienced severe neutropenia for 7 days or more. Neutropenia was not more frequent or more severe in patients who received prior radiation therapy. However, when paclitaxel is given in combinations with cisplatin 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 24 hours followed by cisplatin (75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) resulted in an incidence of neutropathy that was similar to the regimen containing cyclophosphamide 750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> followed by cisplatin 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, 25% (3% severe) versus 20% (0% severe), respectively. Cross-study comparison of neutropathy in Intergroup and GOG trials suggests that when paclitaxel is given in combinations with cisplatin 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, the incidence of severe neutropathy is more common at a paclitaxel dose of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given by 3-hour infusion (21%) than at a dose of 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given by 24-hour infusion (3%). In patients with NSCLC, administration of paclitaxel followed by cisplatin resulted in greater incidence of severe neutropathy compared to the incidence in patients with ovarian or breast cancer treated with single-agent paclitaxel. Severe neurosensory symptoms were noted in 13% of NSCLC patients receiving paclitaxel 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup> by 24-hour infusion followed by cisplatin 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and 8% of NSCLC patients receiving cisplatin/etoposide.

When paclitaxel was administered to patients with ovarian carcinoma at a dose of 175 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 3 hours in combination with cisplatin versus the control arm of cyclophosphamide plus cisplatin, the incidences of severe neutropenia and of febrile neutropenia were similar in the paclitaxel plus cisplatin arm and in the control arm.

