



P R O V I S

**Instructions for Patients and their Families / Caregivers
regarding
Abraxane™ treatment**

Please review the following important information regarding your therapy at Provis Infusion Clinic:

1. Abraxane™ infusions are scheduled every three weeks. The first infusion is usually takes approx. 30 minutes. In some circumstances you may be receiving chemotherapy at your home institution while receiving Abraxane™ injections at Provis Infusion Clinic.
2. Laboratory tests are coordinated with your referring oncologist. We request baseline labwork with updated results before each three-weekly treatment.
3. Abraxane™ can cause infusion reactions. In some cases your infusion may be adjusted to allow for management of these reactions.
4. **Please read carefully the accompanying information about Abraxane™.**
A Provis physician will be available to answer questions prior to your first treatment with Abraxane™

Please clarify with your treating hematologist/oncologist what your particular blood requirements are. If there is uncertainty about a treatment please call our office at 416-595-0500.

Important:

To ensure that your laboratory test results are adequate for Abraxane™ treatment, Provis requires approval from your oncologist **by 10:30 a.m.** on the day of treatment.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions. We would like to make this treatment as easy as possible for you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Provis Team

Medication Information Sheet ABRAXANE™

What the medication is used for

ABRAXANE™ is a prescription cancer medicine. It is injected into a vein and it is used to treat advanced breast cancer.

What it does

ABRAXANE™ is a type of medical treatment called chemotherapy. The purpose of chemotherapy is to kill cancer cells or prevent their growth.

All cells, whether they are healthy cells or cancer cells, go through several stages of growth. During one of the stages, the cell starts to divide. ABRAXANE™ may stop the cells from dividing and growing, so they eventually die. In addition, normal cells may also be affected by ABRAXANE™, causing some of the side effects.

When it should not be used

ABRAXANE™ should not be given to patients with dangerously low white blood cell counts or to patients who are allergic to the drug or any of the components of it.

What the medicinal ingredient is

Paclitaxel

What the important nonmedicinal ingredients are

Human albumin

Warnings and Precautions

- ABRAXANE™ should be administered under the supervision of a doctor who works with cancer medicines.
- ABRAXANE™ should not be given to patients with dangerously low white blood cell counts. To make sure your blood cell counts are in the proper range, you will be asked to have frequent tests.
- Your doctor has prescribed this particular paclitaxel product which contains no solvents, unlike other paclitaxel products. These may reduce some of the adverse effects that may be caused by these other ingredients, such as allergic reactions.

Before you receive ABRAXANE™, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:

- You are experiencing numbness or tingling in your extremities.
- You suspect that you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or are nursing. Abraxane can cause harm to the fetus. Avoid becoming pregnant while taking Abraxane. If you become pregnant during treatment, contact your doctor immediately. Men are advised not to father a child while receiving treatments with ABRAXANE™.
- You are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Your doctor may advise you not to breastfeed while taking Abraxane.
- You have any allergies to this drug or its ingredients or components of the container.

Missed Dose

Talk to your doctor if you have missed a treatment.

Side effects

Most patients taking ABRAXANE™ will experience side effects, although it is not always possible to tell whether such effects are caused by Abraxane, another medicine they may be taking, or the cancer itself. Important side effects are listed below; however, some patients may experience other side effects that are less common. Report any unusual symptoms to your doctor.

- Hair loss
- Infections due to low white blood cell count
- Numbness, tingling or burning in the hands and/or feet
- fever
- Fatigue and weakness
- Low red blood cell count
- Mouth or lip sores
- Joint and muscle pain
- Stomach upset and diarrhea
- Heart and blood vessel effects
- Irritation to the injection site
- Shortness of breath
- Other” mild allergic reactions during infusion such as flushing.
- May also cause vision disturbances, changes in your nails and rash.

Talk with your doctor or other healthcare professional to discuss ways to prevent or reduce some of these side effects.