

PRODUCT INFORMATION

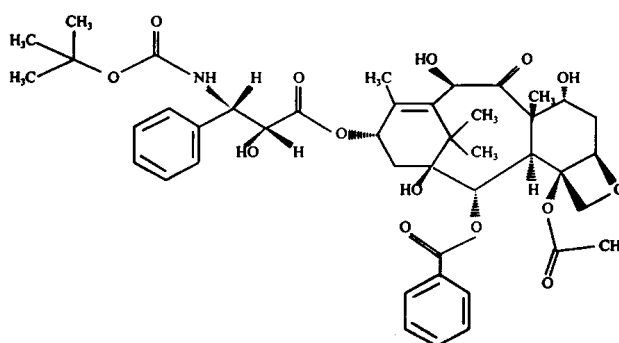
TAXOTERE®

NAME OF THE MEDICINE

AUSTRALIAN APPROVED NAME

Docetaxel

CHEMICAL STRUCTURE



.3H₂O

Molecular Formula: C₄₃H₅₃NO₁₄.3H₂O

Molecular Weight: 861.9

Chemical Name: (2R,3S)-N-carboxy-3-phenylisoserine, N-tert-butyl ester, 13-ester with 5β, 20 epoxy 1, 2α, 4, 7β, 10β, 13α -hexahydroxytax-11-en-9-one 4-acetate 2-benzoate, trihydrate

CAS REGISTRY NUMBER

148408-66-6

DESCRIPTION

Docetaxel

Docetaxel is a white to almost white powder. It is highly lipophilic and practically insoluble in water.

Single-dose vials of TAXOTERE concentrated injection containing 20 or 80 or 160mg of docetaxel per 1.0 or 4.0 or 8.0mL, respectively, in 50/50 (v/v) polysorbate 80/ absolute ethanol. The sterile pyrogen-free viscous solution contains 20mg/mL docetaxel (anhydrous).

In each TAXOTERE 20mg/1ml concentrate vial, the absolute ethanol amount is 395 mg.

In each TAXOTERE 80mg/4ml concentrate vial, the absolute ethanol amount is 1.58 g.

In each TAXOTERE 160mg/8ml concentrate vial, the absolute ethanol amount is 3.16 g.

PHARMACOLOGY

Class

TAXOTERE is an antineoplastic agent which acts by promoting the assembly of tubulin into stable microtubules and inhibits their disassembly which leads to a marked decrease of free tubulin. The binding of docetaxel to microtubules does not alter the number of protofilaments.

PHARMACODYNAMICS

Mechanism of Action

TAXOTERE has been shown *in vitro* to disrupt the microtubular network in cells which is essential for vital mitotic and interphase cellular functions.

Preclinical Data

TAXOTERE was found to be cytotoxic *in vitro* against various murine and human tumour cell lines and against freshly excised human tumour cells in clonogenic assays. Docetaxel achieves high intracellular concentrations with a long cell residence time. In addition, TAXOTERE was found to be active on some, but not all, cell lines overexpressing the p-glycoprotein which is encoded by the multidrug resistance gene. *In vivo*, TAXOTERE is schedule independent and has a broad spectrum of experimental antitumour activity against advanced murine and human grafted tumours. Against transplantable murine tumours *in vivo*, docetaxel was synergistic with vincristine (administered at the same time), etoposide, cyclophosphamide or fluorouracil, but not with vincristine (administered 24 hours apart), cisplatin or doxorubicin.

PHARMACOKINETICS

Distribution

The pharmacokinetics of docetaxel have been evaluated in cancer patients after administration of 5-115mg/m² in phase I studies. The kinetic profile of docetaxel is dose independent and consistent with a three-compartment pharmacokinetic model with half lives for the α , β and γ phases of 4 minutes, 36 minutes and 11.1 hours, respectively. The initial rapid decline represents distribution to the peripheral compartments and the late phase is due, in part, to a relatively slow efflux of docetaxel from the peripheral compartment. Following the administration of a 100mg/m² dose given as a one-hour infusion a mean peak plasma level of 3.7 μ g/mL was obtained with a corresponding AUC of 4.6h. μ g/mL. Mean values for total body clearance and steady-state volume of distribution were 21 L/h/m² and 113 L, respectively.

Metabolism

A population pharmacokinetic analysis has been performed with TAXOTERE in 577 patients. Pharmacokinetic parameters estimated by the model were very close to those estimated from Phase I studies. The pharmacokinetics of docetaxel were not altered by the age or sex of the patient. In a small number of patients (n=23) with clinical chemistry data suggestive of mild to moderate liver function impairment (ALT, AST \geq 1.5 times the upper limit of normal associated with alkaline phosphatase \geq 2.5 times the upper limit of normal), total clearance was lowered by on average 27% (see **Dosage and Administration** section). Docetaxel clearance was not modified in patients with mild to moderate fluid retention. No data is available in patients with severe fluid retention.

Docetaxel is more than 95% bound to plasma proteins. Dexamethasone did not affect protein binding of docetaxel.

The effect of prednisone on the pharmacokinetics of docetaxel administered with standard dexamethasone premedication has been studied in 42 patients. No effect of prednisone on the pharmacokinetics of docetaxel was observed.

Phase I studies evaluating the effect of capecitabine on the pharmacokinetics of docetaxel and the effect of docetaxel on the pharmacokinetics of capecitabine showed no effect of capecitabine on the pharmacokinetics of docetaxel (C_{max} and AUC) and no effect of docetaxel on the pharmacokinetics of the main capecitabine metabolite 5'DFUR.

The combined administration of docetaxel, cisplatin and fluorouracil in 12 patients with solid tumours had no influence on the pharmacokinetics of each individual drug.

Excretion

A study of ¹⁴C-docetaxel has been conducted in three cancer patients. Docetaxel was eliminated in both the urine and faeces following oxidative metabolism of the tert-butyl ester group, within seven days, the urinary and faecal excretion account for about 6% and 75% of the administered radioactivity, respectively. About 80% of the radioactivity (60% of the administered dose) recovered in faeces is excreted during the first 48 hours as one major and three minor inactive metabolites and very low amounts of unchanged drug.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Breast Cancer

Metastatic Breast Cancer

Monotherapy

Eight phase II studies were conducted in patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast carcinoma. A total of 172 patients had received no prior chemotherapy (previously untreated) and 111 patients had received prior chemotherapy (previously treated) which included 83 patients who had progressive disease during anthracycline therapy (anthracycline resistant). In these clinical trials, TAXOTERE was administered at a 75mg/m² dose in 55 previously untreated patients and 100mg/m² in 117 previously untreated and 111 previously treated patients. In these trials, TAXOTERE was administered as a one-hour infusion every 3 weeks.

Patients Treated at 75mg/m²

In the intent-to-treat analysis on previously untreated patients, the overall response rate (ORR) was 47% with 9% complete responses (CR). The median duration of response was 34 weeks and the time to progression was 22 weeks.

There was a high response rate in patients with visceral metastases (48.6% in 35 untreated patients).

In patients with ≤ 2 organs involved, the response rate was 58.6% and in patients with ≥ 3 organs involved was 29.4%.

A significant response rate was seen in patients with liver metastases (45% in untreated patients). The same activity is maintained in untreated patients with soft tissue disease (55.5%).

Patients Treated at 100mg/m²

Phase II Trials

In the intent-to-treat analysis on previously untreated patients, the overall response rate (ORR) was 56% with 9.4% complete responses (CR). The ORR was 48.6% with 3.6% CR in the previously treated population including 48.2% ORR with 3.6% CR in the anthracycline resistant patients. The median duration of response was 30 weeks in the previously untreated population, 28 weeks in the previously treated population and 27 weeks in the anthracycline resistant patients. The time to treatment failure was 21 weeks in the previously untreated population, 19 weeks in the previously treated population and 19 weeks in the anthracycline resistant patients.

The 100mg/m² dose is associated with higher toxicity.

There was a high response rate in patients with visceral metastases (53.8% in 78 untreated patients, 55.1% in 69 pretreated patients and 53.1% in the subgroup of 49 anthracycline resistant patients).

In patients with ≥ 3 organs involved, the response rate was 54.3% in previously untreated patients, 55.8% in previously treated patients and 50% in the subgroup of anthracycline resistant patients.

A significant response rate was seen in patients with liver metastases (59.5% in untreated patients, 47.2% in previously treated patients and 40% in the subgroup of anthracycline resistant patients). The same activity is maintained in patients with visceral involvement (70.4% in previously untreated, 63.6% in previously treated and 63.2% in the subgroup of anthracycline resistant patients).

Phase III Trials

Two randomised phase III comparative studies, involving a total of 326 alkylating agent failure and 392 anthracycline failure metastatic breast cancer patients, have been performed with docetaxel 100mg/m² administered every 3 weeks for seven and ten cycles, respectively.

In alkylating agent failure patients, there were no significant differences in median time to progression or median survival between docetaxel (“D”; n=161) and doxorubicin (“DX”; n=165; 75mg/m² every 3 weeks) on intent-to-treat and evaluable patient analyses. For the intent-to-treat analysis, median time to progression was 5.9 months for docetaxel and 4.9 months for doxorubicin (D-DX diff: 1.0 months; 95% CI for diff: -0.5 to 1.9); median overall survival was 14.7 months for docetaxel and 14.3 months for doxorubicin (D-DX diff: 0.4 months; 95% CI for diff: -1.9 to 2.7). There was a significant difference in response rates between the two groups: 47.8% for docetaxel and 33.3% for doxorubicin (D-DX diff: 14.5%; 95% CI for diff: 3.9 to 25.0) in intent-to-treat analysis.

In anthracycline failure patients, docetaxel (n=203) was compared to the combination of mitomycin C and vinblastine (“MV”; n=189; 12mg/m² every 6 weeks and 6mg/m² every 3 weeks, respectively). For the intent-to-treat analysis, docetaxel increased response rate (30% versus 11.6%; D-MV diff: 18.4%; 95% CI for diff: 10.6 to 26.2), prolonged median time to progression (4.3 months versus 2.5 months; D-MV diff: 1.8 months; 95% CI for diff: 1.0 to 2.4) and prolonged median overall survival (11.5 months versus 8.7 months; D-MV diff: 2.8 months; 95% CI for diff: 0.1 to 4.3). Similar results were observed in the evaluable patient analysis.

An open-label, multicentre, randomised phase III study was conducted to compare TAXOTERE and paclitaxel in the treatment of advanced breast cancer in patients whose previous therapy should have included an anthracycline. A total of 449 patients were randomised to receive either TAXOTERE 100mg/m² as a one hour infusion or paclitaxel 175 mg/m² as a 3 hour infusion. Both regimes were administered every 3 weeks. Efficacy results are described in the following table.

Efficacy of TAXOTERE versus paclitaxel in the treatment of advanced breast cancer (Intent-to-Treat Analysis, unless specified)

Endpoint	TAXOTERE 100mg/m ² n=225	paclitaxel 175 mg/m ² n=224	p-value (unadjusted)
Median survival (months)	15.3	12.7	0.03
95% CI	(13.3 – 18.5)	(10.5 – 14.8)	
Median time to progression (weeks)	24.6	15.6	< 0.01
95% CI	(20 - 30.1)	(13.4 – 18.1)	

Endpoint	TAXOTERE 100mg/m ² n=225	paclitaxel 175 mg/m ² n=224	p-value (unadjusted)
*Overall response rate (ORR) (%)	32.0	25.0	0.10
95% CI	(25.9 – 38.1)	(19.3 – 30.7)	
*ORR in the evaluable population (%)	37.0	26.0	0.01
95% CI	(30.2 – 43.9)	(19.9-31.9)	

*Primary study endpoint

The most frequent adverse events reported for TAXOTERE were neutropenia, febrile neutropenia, gastrointestinal disorders, neurologic disorders, asthenia and fluid retention. More grade 3/4 events were observed from TAXOTERE (55.4%) compared to paclitaxel (23.0%). No unexpected toxicities were reported for TAXOTERE.

Combination with Capecitabine

TAXOTERE in combination with capecitabine was assessed in an open label, multicentre, randomised trial. A total of 511 patients with locally advanced and/or metastatic breast cancer resistant to, or recurring after an anthracycline containing therapy, or relapsing during or recurring within two years of completing an anthracycline containing adjuvant therapy were enrolled. In this trial, 255 patients were randomised to receive capecitabine (1250mg/m² twice daily for 2 weeks followed by a 1 week rest period) in combination with docetaxel (75mg/m² as a 1 hour intravenous infusion every 3 weeks). 256 patients received docetaxel 100mg/m² alone.

TAXOTERE in combination with capecitabine resulted in statistically significant improvements in time to disease progression, overall survival and objective response rate compared to monotherapy with docetaxel as shown in table below. Health related quality of life (HRQoL) was assessed using the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaires (EORTC-QLQ), (C30 version 2, including Breast Cancer Module BR23). HRQoL was similar in the two treatment groups.

Breast cancer combination treatment efficacy results¹

Endpoint Parameter	Capecitabine/docetaxel N=255	docetaxel N=256	Difference	p-value
Time to Disease Progression				
median	186 days	128 days	HR2=0.643	0.0001
[95% CI]	[165,198]	[105,136]	[0.563, 0.770]	
Survival				
median	418 days	338 days	HR2=0.753	0.0119
[95% CI]	[374, 492]	[298, 362]	[0.603, 0.940]	

Endpoint Parameter	Capecitabine/docetaxel N=255	docetaxel N=256	Difference	p-value
Response Rate	41.6%	29.7%	11.9%	0.0058
[95% CI]	[35.5, 47.9]	[24.2, 35.7]	[3.4, 20.0]	
1	All-randomised population, Investigator assessment			
2	Hazard Ratio			

Combination with Trastuzumab (HER2+)

TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab was studied for the treatment of patients with metastatic breast cancer whose tumours overexpress HER2, and who previously had not received chemotherapy for metastatic disease. One hundred and eighty-six patients received TAXOTERE (100mg/m²) with or without trastuzumab; 60% of patients received prior anthracycline-based adjuvant chemotherapy. TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab was efficacious in patients whether or not they had received prior adjuvant anthracyclines. The main test used to determine HER2 positivity in this pivotal trial was immunohistochemistry (IHC). A minority of patients were tested using fluorescence in-situ hybridisation (FISH). In this trial, 87% of patients had disease that was IHC 3+, and 95% of patients entered had disease that was IHC 3+ and/or FISH positive. Efficacy results are summarised in table below:

Efficacy Outcomes in TAXOTERE + Trastuzumab Combination Therapy

Parameter	TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab ¹ n=92	TAXOTERE ¹ n=94
Response rate	61%	34%
(95% CI)	(50, 71)	(25, 45)
p-value**	p=0.0002	
Median duration of response (months, 95% CI)	11.4	5.1
p-value*	(9.2, 15.0)	(4.4, 6.2)
	p=0.0002	
Median TTP	10.6	5.7
(months, (95% CI)	(7.6, 12.9)	(5.0, 6.5)
p-value*	p=0.0001	
Median survival	30.5	22.1
(months, 95% CI)	(26.8, ne) ²	(17.6, 28.9) ²
p-value*	p=0.0062	
1 Full analysis set (intent-to-treat)	2 Estimated median survival	
*p log-rank test	**p Chi-square test	

TTP time to progression
'ne' indicates that it could not be estimated or it was not yet reached

Adjuvant Treatment of Breast Cancer

Combination with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide

Data from a multicentre open label randomized trial support the use of TAXOTERE for the adjuvant treatment of patients with node-positive breast cancer and KPS $\geq 80\%$, between 18 and 70 years of age. After stratification according to the number of positive lymph nodes (1-3, 4+), 1491 patients were randomized to receive either TAXOTERE 75mg/m² administered 1 hour after doxorubicin 50mg/m² and cyclophosphamide 500mg/m² (TAC arm), or doxorubicin 50mg/m² followed by fluorouracil 500mg/m² and cyclophosphamide 500mg/m² (FAC arm). Both regimens were administered once every 3 weeks for 6 cycles. TAXOTERE was administered as a 1 hour infusion, all other drugs were given as IV bolus on day-1. G-CSF was administered in both arms as secondary prophylaxis to patients who experienced febrile neutropenia, prolonged neutropenia or neutropenic infection. Patients in the TAXOTERE arm who continued to experience these reactions remained on G-CSF and had their dose reduced to 60mg/m². Patients on the TAC arm received antibiotic prophylaxis with ciprofloxacin 500mg orally b.i.d. for 10 days starting on day 5 of each cycle, or equivalent. In both arms, after the last cycle of chemotherapy, patients with positive oestrogen and/or progesterone receptors received tamoxifen 20mg daily for up to 5 years. Adjuvant radiation therapy was prescribed according to guidelines in place at participating institutions and was given to 69% of patients who received TAC and 72% of patients who received FAC.

An interim analysis was performed with a median follow up of 55 months. Significantly longer disease-free survival for the TAC arm compared to the FAC arm was demonstrated. In the TAC arm, 23% of subjects had experienced disease progression, compared to 30% in the FAC arm. TAC-treated patients had a 28% reduction in the risk of relapse compared to those treated with FAC (hazard ratio=0.72, 95% CI (0.59-0.88), p=0.001). Overall survival was also significantly longer in the TAC arm with TAC-treated patients having a 30% reduction in the risk of death compared to FAC (hazard ratio=0.70, 95% CI (0.53-0.91), p=0.008). In the TAC arm, 12% of patients had died compared to 17% on the FAC arm.

In the adjuvant breast cancer trial (TAX316), TAXOTERE in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide was administered to 744 patients of whom 48 (6%) were 65 years of age or greater. The number of elderly patients who received this regimen was not sufficient to determine whether there were differences in safety and efficacy between elderly and younger patients.

TAC-treated patient subsets according to prospectively defined major prognostic factors were analysed:

Analysis of TAC-treated patient subsets

Patient subset	Number of patients	Disease Free Survival			Overall Survival		
		Hazard ratio*	95% CI	P=	Hazard ratio*	95% CI	P=
No of positive nodes							
Overall	745	0.72	0.59-0.88	0.001	0.70	0.53-0.91	0.008
1-3	467	0.61	0.46-0.82	0.0009	0.45	0.29-0.70	0.0002
4+	278	0.83	0.63-1.08	0.17	0.94	0.66-1.33	0.72
Hormone Receptor status							
Positive	567	0.72	0.56-0.92	0.0076	0.69	0.48-1.00	0.0459
Negative	178	0.69	0.49-0.97	0.0296	0.66	0.44-0.98	0.0389
Her-2 neu status							
Positive	155	0.60	0.41-0.88	0.0088	0.74	0.45-1.20	0.22
Negative	475	0.76	0.59-1.00	0.046	0.63	0.44-0.91	0.0135

* a hazard ratio of less than 1 indicates that TAC is associated with a longer disease-free survival and overall survival compared to FAC

The beneficial effect of TAC was seen in both hormone receptor positive and negative patients.

Combination with Doxorubicin, Cyclophosphamide and Trastuzumab and with Carboplatin and Trastuzumab (HER2+)

The efficacy and safety of TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab was studied for the adjuvant treatment of patients with operable breast cancer whose tumours overexpress HER2 (with node positive and high risk node negative). A total of 3,222 women were randomised in the study, and 3,174 were treated with either: AC-T, AC-TH, or TCH.

- AC-T: (control arm): Doxorubicin 60 mg/m² IV in combination with cyclophosphamide 600 mg/m² IV every 3 weeks for 4 cycles, followed by TAXOTERE 100 mg/m² as a 1-hour IV infusion every 3 weeks for 4 cycles;

- AC-TH: Doxorubicin 60 mg/m² IV in combination with cyclophosphamide 600 mg/m² IV every 3 weeks for 4 cycles. Three weeks after the last cycle of AC, trastuzumab 4 mg/kg loading dose by IV infusion over 90 minutes on day 1 of cycle 5 was administered, followed by trastuzumab 2 mg/kg by IV infusion over 30-minutes weekly starting day 8 of cycle 5; and TAXOTERE 100 mg/m² administered by IV infusion over 1-hour on day 2 of cycle 5, then on day 1 every 3 weeks for a total of 4 cycles of TAXOTERE. Beginning three weeks after the last cycle of chemotherapy, trastuzumab 6 mg/kg by IV infusion over 30 minutes was given every 3 weeks (for 1 year from the date of first administration);

- TCH: Trastuzumab 4 mg/kg loading dose by IV infusion over 90 minutes on day 1 of cycle 1 only, followed by trastuzumab 2 mg/kg by IV infusion over 30 minutes weekly starting on day 8 until three weeks after the last cycle of chemotherapy. TAXOTERE 75 mg/m² was administered on day 2 of cycle 1, then on day 1 of all subsequent cycles by IV infusion over 1-hour followed by carboplatin (AUC 6 mg/mL/min) as a 30-60 minute IV infusion, for a total of six cycles of TAXOTERE and carboplatin. Beginning three weeks after the last cycle of chemotherapy,

trastuzumab 6 mg/kg by IV infusion over 30 minutes was given every 3 weeks (for 1-year from the date of first administration).

The patients and disease characteristics at baseline were well balanced between the 3 treatment arms.

Disease Free Survival (DFS) was the primary endpoint, and Overall Survival (OS) was the secondary endpoint.

Results of the second interim analysis, performed with a median follow-up of 36 months, demonstrated that TAXOTERE and trastuzumab given concurrently as part of either an anthracycline-based (AC-TH) or non-anthracycline-based (TCH) adjuvant treatment regimens, for patients with HER2-positive operable breast cancer, statistically prolonged both DFS and OS compared with the control arm (AC-T). The AC-TH and TCH regimens significantly improved disease-free survival compared with AC-T at the significance level of 0.003 required for the interim analysis. Overall survival was significantly better with AC-TH but not TCH compared to AC-T in the interim analysis. There was no statistically significant difference between the two trastuzumab-containing arms AC-TH and TCH for DFS and OS. Efficacy results are summarised in the following table:

Doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide followed by TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab, or TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab, and carboplatin (Intent to Treat Population)

	Disease Free Survival (DFS)			Overall Survival (OS)		
	AC-T n=1073	AC-TH n=1074	TCH n=1075	AC-T n=1073	AC-TH n=1074	TCH n=1075
Stratified analysis						
Hazard ratio ^a	NA	0.61	0.67	NA	0.58	0.66
95% CI	NA	(0.49-0.77)	(0.54-0.83)	NA	(0.40-0.83)	(0.47-0.93)
p-value ^b	NA	< 0.0001	0.0003	NA	0.0024	0.0182
Percent event free at 3 years (95% CI)	80.9% (78.3-83.5%)	86.7% (84.4-89.0%)	85.5% (83.2-87.9%)	93.0% (91.2-94.8%)	95.5% (94.0-96.9%)	95.2% (93.7-96.6%)
Absolute benefit ^c		5.8% (2.3-9.2%)	4.6% (1.2-8.1%)		2.5% (0.2-4.8%)	2.2% (-0.1-4.5%)

AC-T=doxorubicin plus cyclophosphamide, followed by TAXOTERE; AC-TH=doxorubicin plus cyclophosphamide, followed by TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab; TCH=TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab and carboplatin.

CI=confidence interval; NA=not applicable.

^a=Relative to AC-T. Estimated using Cox regression stratified by number of nodes and hormonal receptor status.

^b=Stratified log-rank p-value.

^c=Absolute benefit in percent event free compared to AC-T at 3 years.

There were 29% of patients with high risk node negative disease included in the study. The benefit observed for the overall population was irrespective of the nodal status.

Disease Free Survival (Intent to Treat Population) according to Nodal Status:

	High risk node-negative patients			Node-positive patients		
	AC-T n = 309	AC-TH n = 306	TCH n = 307	AC-T n = 764	AC-TH n = 768	TCH n = 768
Stratified analysis						
Hazard ratio ^a	NA	0.36	0.52	NA	0.67	0.70
95% CI	NA	(0.19-0.68)	(0.30-0.92)	NA	(0.53-0.85)	(0.56-0.89)
p-value ^b	NA	0.0010	0.0209	NA	0.0008	0.0029
Percent event free at 3 years (95% CI)	88.0% (84.1-91.9%)	94.8% (91.9-97.8%)	93.0% (89.9-96.2%)	78.1% (74.9-81.3%)	83.6% (80.7-86.5%)	82.6% (79.6-85.6%)
Absolute benefit ^c		6.8% (1.9-11.7%)	5.1% (0.0-10.1%)		5.5% (1.2-9.8%)	4.6% (0.2-8.9%)

AC-T=doxorubicin plus cyclophosphamide, followed by TAXOTERE; AC-TH=doxorubicin plus cyclophosphamide, followed by TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab; TCH=TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab and carboplatin.

CI=confidence interval; NA=not applicable.

^a=Relative to AC-T. Estimated using Cox regression stratified by number of nodes and hormonal receptor status.

^b=Stratified log-rank p-value.

^c=Absolute benefit in percent event free compared with AC-T.

Combination with Cyclophosphamide

TAXOTERE in combination with cyclophosphamide (TC) was investigated in a phase III randomised prospective clinical trial, in comparison with the standard treatment regimen of doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide (AC). Results of the trial were only available in the form of two published papers. A total of 1016 patients with operable stage I to III invasive breast cancer were randomly assigned to receive either four cycles of AC (60 and 600mg/m² respectively every three weeks; n=510), or four cycles of TC (75mg and 600mg/m² every three weeks; n=506) as adjuvant chemotherapy after complete surgical excision of the primary tumour. Patients had to have a primary tumour of ≥1 cm and <7 cm, and no evidence of metastatic disease. Neoadjuvant chemotherapy was not permitted.

Both treatment groups were well balanced for major prognostic factors; including age, race, stage, histology, hormone receptor status and nodal status. On completion of four cycles of chemotherapy (with or without radiotherapy) tamoxifen was administered to all patients with hormone receptor positive breast cancer for 5 years.

After median follow up of 5 years, the results demonstrated an improvement in disease free survival (DFS) for TC compared with AC. In the TC arm 435/506 (86%) remained alive and

disease-free, compared to 408/510 (80%) in the AC arm (HR = 0.67; 95% CI 0.50 to 0.94; p=0.015).

Non Small Cell Lung Cancer

Patients Treated at 75mg/m²

One phase II study was conducted in 20 previously untreated patients with locally advanced or metastatic non small cell lung cancer. In this clinical trial, TAXOTERE was administered at a 75mg/m² dose given as a one-hour infusion every 3 weeks. The response rate was 10%.

Patients Treated at 100mg/m²

Six phase II studies were conducted in patients with locally advanced or metastatic non small cell lung cancer. A total of 160 patients had received no prior chemotherapy (previously untreated) and 88 patients had received prior platinum based chemotherapy (previously treated) which included 37 patients who had progressive disease with platinum therapy (platinum refractory). In these clinical trials, TAXOTERE was administered at a 100mg/m² dose given as a one-hour infusion every 3 weeks.

The 100mg/m² dose is associated with higher toxicity.

In the intent-to-treat analysis on previously untreated patients, the overall response rate (ORR) was 26.9% and in the previously treated population it was 17%.

The survival time for all previously untreated patients or previously treated patients was 9 and 8 months, respectively.

Ovarian Cancer

Patients Treated at 100mg/m²

TAXOTERE was studied in five uncontrolled trials in patients with advanced epithelial ovarian cancer who had failed previous treatment with cisplatin or carboplatin. These patients (n=377) received TAXOTERE 100mg/m² in a one hour intravenous infusion every three weeks.

In intent-to-treat analysis, median time to progression ranged from 9.2 to 13.1 weeks, median survival ranged from 7 to 10.3 months, overall response rate ranged from 8.3 to 24.0% and complete response rate ranged from 2.8 to 8.3%.

Prostate Cancer

The safety and efficacy of TAXOTERE in patients with androgen independent (hormone refractory) metastatic prostate cancer were evaluated in a randomised multicentre Phase III trial. A total of 1006 patients with KPS \geq 60 were randomised to the following treatment groups:

- TAXOTERE 75mg/m² every 3 weeks for 10 cycles.

PRODUCT INFORMATION
Taxotere (1-Vial) - docetaxel

- TAXOTERE 30mg/m² administered weekly for the first 5 weeks in a 6 week cycle for 5 cycles.
- Mitozantrone 12mg/m² every 3 weeks for 10 cycles.

All 3 regimens were administered in combination with prednisone or prednisolone 5mg twice daily, continuously.

Patients who received docetaxel every three weeks demonstrated significantly longer overall survival compared to those treated with mitozantrone (p=0.0094). The increase in survival seen in the docetaxel weekly arm was not statistically significant compared to the mitozantrone control arm. Efficacy endpoints for the TAXOTERE 3 weekly arm versus the control arm are summarised in the following table:

Efficacy of TAXOTERE in the treatment of patients with androgen independent (hormone refractory) prostate cancer (intent-to-treat analysis)

Endpoint	TAXOTERE	Mitozantrone
	Every 3 weeks	Every 3 weeks
Number of patients	335	337
Median survival (months)	18.9	16.5
95% CI	(17.0-21.2)	(14.4-18.6)
Hazard ratio	0.761	-
95% CI	(0.619-0.936)	-
p value+ *	0.0094	-
Number of patients	291	300
PSA** response rate (%)	45.4	31.7
95% CI	(39.5-51.3)	(26.4-37.3)
p-value*	0.0005	-
Number of patients	153	157
Pain response rate (%)	34.6	21.7
95% CI	(27.1-42.7)	(15.5-28.9)
p-value*	0.0107	-
Number of patients	141	137
Tumour response rate (%)	12.1	6.6
95% CI	(7.2-18.6)	(3.0-12.1)
p-value*	0.1112	-

+ stratified log rank test
* threshold for statistical significance=0.0175
** PSA: Prostate-Specific Antigen

Head and Neck Cancer

Induction chemotherapy followed by radiotherapy (TAX323)

The safety and efficacy of TAXOTERE in the induction treatment of patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN) was evaluated in a phase III, multicentre, open-label, randomised trial (TAX 323). In this study, 358 previously untreated patients with locally advanced inoperable stage III/IV SCCHN, and WHO performance status 0 or 1, were randomised to one of two treatment arms. Patients on the TAXOTERE arm received TAXOTERE (T) 75mg/m² followed by cisplatin (P) 75mg/m² on Day 1, followed by fluorouracil (F) 750mg/m² per day as a continuous infusion on Days 1-5. The cycles were repeated every three weeks for 4 cycles. Patients whose disease did not progress received radiotherapy (RT) according to institutional guidelines (TPF/RT). Patients on the comparator arm received cisplatin 100mg/m² on Day 1, followed by fluorouracil 1000mg/m² (PF) as a continuous infusion on Days 1-5. The cycles were repeated every three weeks for 4 cycles. Patients whose disease did not progress received RT according to institutional guidelines (PF/RT). At the end of chemotherapy, with a minimal interval of 4 weeks and a maximal interval of 7 weeks, patients whose disease did not progress received radiotherapy (RT) according to institutional guidelines.

Conventional locoregional radiotherapy was given to approximately 77% of the patients at a total dose of 66 – 70 Gy (1.8 Gy – 2.0 Gy once a day, 5 days per week) while accelerated/hyperfractionated regimens of radiation therapy were used in approximately 23% of patients (twice a day, with a minimum interfraction interval of 6 hours, 5 days per week).

A total of 70 Gy was recommended for accelerated regimens and 74 Gy for hyperfractionated schemes. Surgical resection was allowed following chemotherapy, before or after radiotherapy. The primary endpoint in this study, progression-free survival (PFS), was significantly longer in the TPF arm compared to the PF arm, p=0.0042 (median PFS: 11.4 vs. 8.3 months, respectively) with an overall median follow up time of 33.7 months. Median overall survival was significantly longer in favour of the TPF arm compared to the PF arm (median OS: 18.6 vs. 14.5 months, respectively) with a 28% risk reduction of mortality, p=0.0128. Patients with tumours of the nasopharynx and the nasal/paranasal cavities were excluded from this study. Efficacy results are presented in the table below.

Efficacy of TAXOTERE in the induction treatment of patients with locally advanced inoperable SCCHN (intent-to-treat analysis)

Endpoint	TAXOTERE + Cis + FU n=177	Cis + FU n=181
Median progression free survival (months)	11.4	8.3
(95% CI)	(10.1 – 14.0)	(7.4 – 9.1)
Adjusted Hazard Ratio	0.70	
(95% CI)	(0.55 – 0.89)	
*p-value	0.0042	
Median survival (months)	18.6	14.5
(95% CI)	(15.7 – 24.0)	(11.6 – 18.7)
Hazard Ratio	0.72	
(95% CI)	(0.56 – 0.93)	
**p-value	0.0128	
Overall response rate to chemotherapy (%)	67.8	53.6
(95% CI)	(60.4 – 74.6)	(46.0 – 61.0)
***p-value	0.006	
Overall response rate to study treatment [chemo- ± radio-therapy (%)	72.3	58.6
(95% CI)	(65.1 – 78.8)	(51.0 – 65.8)
***p-value	0.006	
Median duration of response to chemo- ± radio-therapy (months)	n=128	n=106
(95% CI)	15.7	11.7
	(13.4 – 24.6)	(10.2 – 17.4)
Hazard Ratio	0.72	
(95% CI)	(0.52 – 0.99)	
**p-value	0.0457	

A Hazard Ratio of less than 1 favours TAXOTERE + Cisplatin + FU

* Cox model (adjustment for Primary tumour site, T and N clinical stages and PSWHO)

** Logrank test

*** Chi-square test

Clinical Benefit Parameters

Patients treated with TPF experienced significantly less deterioration of their Global health score compared to those treated with PF (p=0.01, using EORTC QLQ-C30).

The performance status scale for head and neck, designed to measure disturbances of speech and eating, was significantly in favour of TPF treatment.

The median time to first deterioration of WHO performance status was significantly (p=0.0158) longer in the TPF arm (13.7 months; 95% CI: 10.7 – 21.0 months) compared to PF (8.3 months; 95% CI: 7.3 – 9.6 months). However, no significant difference in WHO performance status was apparent between the two arms (odds ratio = 0.96, 95% CI: 0.66 – 1.41). There was no difference in pain intensity in patients treated with TPF or PF.

Induction chemotherapy followed by chemoradiotherapy (TAX324)

The safety and efficacy of TAXOTERE in the induction treatment of patients with locally advanced (technically unresectable, low probability of surgical cure, or candidates for organ preservation) SCCHN was evaluated in a randomised, multicentre open-label, phase III trial (TAX324). Patients with tumours of the nasopharynx and nasal/paranasal cavities were excluded from this study. In this study, 501 patients with locally advanced SCCHN, and a WHO performance status of 0 or 1 were randomised to one of two arms. Patients on the TAXOTERE arm received TAXOTERE (T) 75 mg/m² by IV infusion on day 1, followed by cisplatin (P) 100 mg/m² administered as a 30 minute to three hour IV infusion, followed by the continuous IV infusion of fluorouracil (F) 1000 mg/m²/day from day 1 to day 4. The cycles were repeated every 3 weeks for 3 cycles. All patients who did not have progressive disease were to receive chemoradiotherapy (CRT) as per protocol (TPF/CRT). Patients on the comparator arm received cisplatin (P) 100 mg/m² administered as a 30 minute to three hour IV infusion, followed by the continuous IV infusion of fluorouracil (F) 1000 mg/m²/day from day 1 to day 5. The cycles were repeated every 3 weeks for 3 cycles. All patients who did not have progressive disease were to receive CRT as per protocol (PF/CRT).

Patients in both treatment arms were to receive 7 weeks of CRT following induction chemotherapy with a minimum interval of 3 weeks and no later than 8 weeks after start of the last cycle (day 22 to day 56 of last cycle). During radiotherapy, carboplatin (AUC 1.5) was given weekly as a one hour IV infusion for a maximum of 7 doses. Radiation was delivered with megavoltage equipment using once daily fractionation (2 Gy per day, 5 days per week for 7 weeks, for a total dose of 70 – 72 Gy). Surgery on the primary site of disease and/or neck could be considered at any time following completion of CRT.

The primary efficacy endpoint in this study, overall survival (OS) was significantly longer (log-rank test p=0.0058) with the TAXOTERE-containing regimen compared to PF (median OS: 70.6 vs 30.1 months, respectively), with a 30% risk reduction in mortality compared to PF (hazard ratio (HR)= 0.70, 95% confidence interval (CI)= 0.54 – 0.90). The secondary endpoint PFS demonstrated a 29% risk reduction of progression or death and a 22 month improvement in median PFS (35.5 months for TPF and 13.1 for PF). This was also statistically significant with an HR of 0.71; 95% CI 0.56 – 0.90; log-rank test p=0.004. Efficacy results are presented in the table below.

Efficacy of TAXOTERE in the induction treatment followed by chemoradiotherapy for patients with locally advanced SCCHN (Intent-to-treat analysis)

Endpoint	TAXOTERE + Cis + FU n=255	Cis + FU n=246
Median overall survival (months)	70.6	30.1
(95% CI)	(49.0 – N/A)	(20.9 – 51.5)
Hazard Ratio	0.70	
(95% CI)	(0.54 – 0.90)	
*p-value	0.0058	
Median progression free survival (months)	35.5	13.1
(95% CI)	(19.3 – N/A)	(10.6 – 20.2)
Hazard Ratio	0.71	
(95% CI)	(0.56 – 0.90)	
**p-value	0.004	
Best overall response (CR + PR) to induction chemotherapy (%)	71.8	64.2
(95% CI)	(65.8 – 77.2)	(57.9 – 70.2)
***p-value	0.070	
Best overall response (CR + PR) to study treatment [induction chemotherapy ± chemoradiotherapy] (%)	76.5	71.5
(95% CI)	(70.8 – 81.5)	(65.5 – 77.1)
***p-value	0.209	

A Hazard Ratio of less than 1 favours TAXOTERE + Cisplatin + FU

* unadjusted log-rank test

** unadjusted log-rank test, not adjusted for multiple comparisons

*** Chi-square test, not adjusted for multiple comparisons

N/A – not applicable

INDICATIONS

Breast Cancer

Metastatic Breast Cancer

TAXOTERE is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer in whom previous chemotherapy has failed.

TAXOTERE in combination with capecitabine is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer after failure of prior anthracycline containing chemotherapy.

TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab is indicated for the treatment of patients with metastatic breast cancer whose tumours overexpress HER2 and who previously have not received chemotherapy for metastatic disease.

Adjuvant Treatment of Breast Cancer

TAXOTERE in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide is indicated for the adjuvant treatment of patients with node-positive breast cancer.

Doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide followed by TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab (AC-TH) is indicated for the adjuvant treatment of patients with operable breast cancer whose tumours overexpress HER2.

TAXOTERE in combination with carboplatin and trastuzumab (TCH) is indicated for the adjuvant treatment of patients with operable breast cancer whose tumours overexpress HER2.

TAXOTERE in combination with cyclophosphamide is indicated for the adjuvant treatment of operable breast cancer with a primary tumour of ≥ 1 cm and < 7 cm.

Non Small Cell Lung Cancer

TAXOTERE is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non small cell lung cancer, including those who have failed platinum-based chemotherapy.

Ovarian Cancer

TAXOTERE is indicated for the treatment of metastatic carcinoma of the ovary after failure of first-line or subsequent chemotherapy.

Prostate Cancer

TAXOTERE is indicated for the treatment of patients with androgen independent (hormone refractory) prostate cancer.

Head and Neck Cancer

TAXOTERE, in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil is indicated as induction treatment prior to chemoradiotherapy, for the treatment of patients with locally advanced, squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, who have low probability of surgical cure, require organ preservation or where the tumour is technically unresectable.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

TAXOTERE is contraindicated in patients who have a history of severe hypersensitivity reactions to TAXOTERE or polysorbate 80.

TAXOTERE should not be used in patients with baseline neutrophil count of $<1.5 \text{ cells} \times 10^9/\text{L}$.

TAXOTERE should not be used in patients with severe liver impairment.

TAXOTERE should not be used in pregnant or breast-feeding women.

Contraindications that apply for other drugs also apply when these drugs are combined with TAXOTERE.

PRECAUTIONS

The use of TAXOTERE should be confined to units specialised in the administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy and it should only be administered under the supervision of a qualified oncologist.

PREMEDICATION

Patients should be pre-treated prior to each TAXOTERE administration. A premedication consisting of an oral corticosteroid such as dexamethasone 16mg per day (e.g. 8mg twice daily) for 3 days starting one day prior to TAXOTERE administration can reduce the incidence and severity of fluid retention as well as the severity of hypersensitivity reactions. (see **Fluid Retention** and **Hypersensitivity Reaction** sections below, and refer to **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**)

For prostate cancer, the premedication is oral dexamethasone 8mg, 12 hours, 3 hours and 1 hour before the docetaxel infusion.

HAEMATOLOGY

Bone marrow suppression and other haematologic effects to TAXOTERE include neutropenia, the most frequent adverse reaction of TAXOTERE (see **ADVERSE EFFECTS, Clinical Studies**).

Neutrophil nadirs occurred at a median of 7 days but this interval may be shorter in heavily pretreated patients. Frequent monitoring of complete blood counts should be conducted in all patients receiving docetaxel. Patients should be retreated with docetaxel only when neutrophils recover to a level $\geq 1.5 \text{ cells} \times 10^9/\text{L}$.

TAXOTERE should not be administered to patients with baseline neutrophil counts of less than $<1.5 \text{ cells} \times 10^9/\text{L}$. Frequent monitoring of complete blood counts should be conducted on all patients during treatment with docetaxel. Patients should not be retreated with TAXOTERE until neutrophils recover to a level $\geq 1.5 \text{ cells} \times 10^9/\text{L}$. (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

In the case of severe neutropenia ($<0.5 \text{ cells} \times 10^9/\text{L}$ for seven days or more) during a course of TAXOTERE therapy, a reduction in dose for subsequent courses of therapy or the use of appropriate symptomatic measures are recommended. Prophylactic G-CSF may be used to mitigate the risk of haematological toxicities.

Patients who receive adjuvant therapy for breast cancer and who experience febrile neutropenia should receive G-CSF in all subsequent cycles. Patients who continue to experience this reaction should remain on G-CSF and have their TAXOTERE dose reduced (see also **Dosage Adjustments During Treatment**).

In the treatment of adjuvant breast cancer, the risk of delayed myelodysplasia or myeloid leukaemia requires haematological follow-up (see **ADVERSE EFFECTS**).

GASTROINTESTINAL REACTIONS

Caution is recommended for patients with neutropenia, particularly at risk for developing gastrointestinal complications. Enterocolitis could develop at any time, and could lead to death as early as on the first day of onset. Patients should be closely monitored for early manifestations of serious gastrointestinal toxicity (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, PRECAUTIONS – Haematology and ADVERSE EFFECTS**).

HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTIONS

Patients should be observed closely for hypersensitivity reactions especially during the first and second infusions. Hypersensitivity reactions may occur within a few minutes, during or immediately following the cessation of the infusion of TAXOTERE, thus facilities for the treatment of hypotension and bronchospasm should be available. Frequently reported symptoms were flushing, rash with or without pruritus, chest tightness, back pain, dyspnoea and drug fever or chills. If hypersensitivity reactions occur, minor symptoms such as flushing or localised cutaneous reactions do not require interruption of therapy. However, severe reactions, such as severe hypotension, bronchospasm, fatal anaphylaxis (very rarely) or generalised rash/erythema require immediate discontinuation of TAXOTERE and aggressive therapy. Severe symptoms are usually resolved after discontinuing the infusion and appropriate therapy. Patients who have developed severe hypersensitivity reactions should not be rechallenged with TAXOTERE.

Patients who have previously experienced a hypersensitivity reaction to paclitaxel may develop a potentially fatal hypersensitivity reaction to docetaxel.

CUTANEOUS REACTIONS

Reversible cutaneous reactions were generally mild to moderate. Reactions were characterised by a rash including localised eruptions with oedema mainly on feet, hands (including severe hand and foot syndrome), but also arms, face or thorax, and frequently associated with pruritus. Eruptions generally occurred within one week after the docetaxel infusion. Less frequently, severe symptoms such as eruptions followed by desquamation which rarely led to interruption or discontinuation of docetaxel treatment were reported. Nail disorders were characterised by hypo- or hyperpigmentation, pain and onycholysis.

Very rare cases of cutaneous lupus erythematosus and bullous eruptions such as erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis and scleroderma-like changes

have been reported with docetaxel. In some cases multiple factors such as concomitant infections, concomitant medications and underlying disease may have contributed to the development of these effects.

EAR AND LABYRINTH DISORDERS

Rare cases of ototoxicity, hearing disorders and/or hearing loss have been reported, including cases associated with other ototoxic drugs.

FLUID RETENTION

A premedication consisting of an oral corticosteroid such as dexamethasone 16mg per day (e.g. 8mg twice daily) for 3 days starting one day prior to docetaxel administration, unless contraindicated, can reduce the incidence and severity of fluid retention as well as the severity of hypersensitivity reactions (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

The peripheral oedema usually starts at the lower extremities and may become generalized with a weight gain of 3 kgs or more. Fluid retention is cumulative in incidence and severity; *however, it has been reported in some patients during early courses of therapy. The median cumulative dose to onset for treatment with 75mg/m² is 524mg/m² and treatment at 100mg/m² is 509mg/m² (without premedication) and 797mg/m² (with premedication). *Fluid retention is slowly reversible after docetaxel treatment is stopped. In patients treated by docetaxel as single agent, at 100mg/m², the median cumulative dose to treatment discontinuation was more than 1,000 mg/m² and the median time to fluid retention reversibility was 16.4 weeks (range 0 to 42 weeks).

Fluid retention has not been accompanied by acute episodes of oliguria or hypotension.

Patients with severe fluid retention such as pleural effusion, pericardial effusion and ascites should be monitored more closely.

PATIENTS WITH LIVER IMPAIRMENT

Liver function tests (LFTs) should be measured at baseline and before each cycle.

In patients treated with docetaxel at 100mg/m² who have both elevations of serum transaminase values (ALT and/or AST) greater than 1.5 times the upper limit of normal (ULN) and increases in alkaline phosphatase greater than 2.5 times the ULN, there is a greater risk of developing severe adverse reactions such as toxic deaths including sepsis, gastrointestinal haemorrhage which can be fatal, febrile neutropenia, infections, thrombocytopenia, stomatitis and asthenia. The recommended dose of docetaxel in patients with elevated LFTs is 75mg/m² (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

For those patients with increased serum bilirubin and/or values >3.5 times the ULN for ALT and AST and six times the ULN for alkaline phosphatase, no dose-reduction can be recommended and docetaxel should not be used unless strictly indicated. The amount of ethanol in TAXOTERE should be taken into account when given to patients with hepatic impairment (see **PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS**).

NERVOUS SYSTEM

The development of severe neurosensory signs and/or symptoms have been observed in patients and requires a reduction of dose (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

The amount of ethanol in TAXOTERE should be taken into account when given to patients with epilepsy (see **PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS**).

Consideration should be given to possible effects on the central nervous system.

CARDIAC TOXICITY

Heart failure has been observed in patients receiving TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab, particularly following anthracycline (doxorubicin and epirubicin) containing chemotherapy. This may be moderate to severe and has been associated with death.

Ventricular arrhythmia including ventricular tachycardia (sometimes fatal) has been reported in patients treated with docetaxel in combination regimens including doxorubicin, fluorouracil and/or cyclophosphamide (see Adverse Effects).

Prescribers should inform patients to report any irregular and/or rapid heartbeat, severe shortness of breath, dizziness, and/or fainting.

EYE DISORDERS

Cystoid macular oedema (CMO) has been reported in patients treated with docetaxel, as well as with other taxanes. Patients with impaired vision should undergo a prompt and complete ophthalmologic examination. In case CMO is diagnosed, docetaxel treatment should be discontinued and appropriate treatment initiated.

LEUKAEMIA

In the adjuvant treatment of breast cancer, the risk of delayed myelodysplasia or myeloid leukaemia requires haematological follow up.

CARCINOGENICITY

TAXOTERE was not mutagenic in bacterial or CHO/HPRT gene mutation assays, but was mutagenic in the in vitro chromosome aberration assay, in the in vivo micronucleus test in the mouse and modified the distribution of CHO-K1 cells in the cell cycle phases.

The carcinogenic potential of TAXOTERE has not been studied. However, based upon its pharmacodynamic mechanism of action, TAXOTERE may be a carcinogen.

Studies in mice have shown that IV doses of 144mg/m² or 30mg/m²/day for 5 days are associated with testicular atrophy, mineralisation and degeneration of tubular germinal epithelium, Leydig

cell hyperplasia, epididymal hypospermia, and follicular atresia in the ovaries. Studies in rats have shown that intravenous doses of $120\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ are associated with testicular atrophy, germ cell atrophy, Leydig cell hyperplasia and mineralisation. The rodent studies suggest that TAXOTERE may impair fertility. Studies in rats have also shown that IV doses of $0.9\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ to both sexes are associated with reduced litter averages for corpora lutea, implantations and live foetuses, and increased litter averages for early and total resorptions. Larger doses to both sexes (males $1.8\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$, females $1.35\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$) are additionally associated with increased time to mating, increased number of dams with total resorption, and reduced male foetal body weight.

USE IN PREGNANCY (CATEGORY D)

Category D: drugs which have caused, are suspected to have caused or may be expected to cause, an increased incidence of human fetal malformations of irreversible damage. These drugs may also have adverse pharmacological effects. Accompanying texts should be consulted for further details.

Docetaxel may cause foetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Therefore, docetaxel must not be used during pregnancy.

Foetal radioactivity has been detected following intravenous (IV) administration of radiolabelled docetaxel to pregnant rats. Docetaxel has been shown to be embryo- and foetotoxic in rats and rabbits. At IV doses of $0.9\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$, docetaxel caused fewer corpora lutea, fewer implantations, increased resorptions and embryofoetal deaths in rats. No evidence of teratogenic effects was found when docetaxel was administered IV at doses up to $1.8\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ or $1.2\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ in rats or rabbits, respectively, but reduced foetal weight and delayed ossification were observed.

Offspring from rats receiving docetaxel $1.5\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ IV from late gestation until weaning showed signs of delayed development. No studies have been performed in pregnant women.

If docetaxel is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while receiving this drug, she should be appraised of the potential hazard. Women of childbearing potential should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant during therapy with this drug. Contraceptive measures must be taken during and for at least three months after cessation of therapy with TAXOTERE.

USE IN LACTATION

Radioactivity has been detected in milk following intravenous administration of radiolabelled docetaxel to lactating rats. Offspring from rats receiving docetaxel $1.5\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ IV during late gestation and lactation showed signs of delayed development. It is not known whether TAXOTERE is excreted in human milk. It is recommended to advise women not to breast-feed during treatment with TAXOTERE.

USE IN THE ELDERLY

An analysis of safety data in patients equal to or greater than 60 years of age treated with TAXOTERE in combination with capecitabine showed an increase in the incidence of treatment-related Grade 3 or 4 adverse reactions, treatment-related serious adverse reactions and early

withdrawals from treatment due to adverse reactions compared to patients less than 60 years of age.

Of the 333 patients treated with TAXOTERE every three weeks in the prostate cancer study, 209 patients were 65 years of age or greater and 68 patients were older than 75 years. Differences in efficacy were not identified between elderly patients and younger patients. In patients treated with TAXOTERE every three weeks, the incidence of anaemia, infection, nail changes, anorexia, weight loss occurred at rates $\geq 10\%$ higher in patients who were 65 years of age or greater compared to younger patients.

There are no data available in patients >70 years of age on TAXOTERE use in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide.

The proportion of elderly patients was 5.5% and 6.6% in the AC-TH and TCH regimens, respectively and is too limited to allow for conclusions regarding the adverse events occurring by age (< 65 years vs. ≥ 65 years).

Of the 174 and 251 patients who received the induction treatment with TAXOTERE in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil (TPF) for SCCHN in the TAX323 and TAX324 studies, only 18 (10%) and 32 (13%), respectively, of the patients were 65 years of age or older. The number of elderly patients who received this regimen was not sufficient to determine whether geriatric patients responded differently from younger patients.

DRIVING A VEHICLE OR OPERATING MACHINERY

No studies of the effect on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. The amount of ethanol in TAXOTERE may impair the ability to drive or use machines. The alcohol content in a maximum recommended dose of 200mg (based on $100\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$, body surface area of 2.0m^2) contains approximately 4.0 grams of absolute ethanol.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFE HANDLING

TAXOTERE is an antineoplastic agent and, as with other potentially toxic compounds, caution should be exercised when handling it and preparing TAXOTERE solutions. The use of gloves is recommended.

If TAXOTERE concentrate, premix solution or infusion solution comes into contact with the skin, wash immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. If TAXOTERE concentrate, premix solution or infusion solution comes into contact with mucous membranes, wash immediately and thoroughly with water.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES

There have been no formal clinical studies to evaluate the drug interactions of docetaxel.

In vitro studies suggest that isoenzymes of the cytochrome P450-3A subfamily appear to be involved in the hepatic metabolism of docetaxel in humans. In vitro, the biotransformation of docetaxel was inhibited by cyclosporin, terfenadine, ketoconazole, erythromycin and

troleandomycin and to a lesser extent by doxorubicin, vinorelbine, vinblastine and nifedipine, increased by dexamethasone, phenobarbitone and clofibrate and unaffected by cimetidine, ranitidine, omeprazole, diazepam, imipramine, paracetamol, caffeine, tolbutamide and quinidine. Strong P450-3A inhibitors may affect docetaxel metabolism in vivo, necessitating caution in co administration regimens.

In case of combination with CYP3A4 inhibitors, the occurrence of TAXOTERE adverse reactions may increase, as a result of reduced metabolism. The concomitant use of TAXOTERE with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g. ketoconazole, itraconazole, clarithromycin, indinavir, nefazodone, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir, telithromycin and voriconazole) should be avoided. If the concomitant use of a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor cannot be avoided, a close clinical surveillance is warranted and a dose-adjustment of TAXOTERE may be suitable during concomitant treatment with the strong CYP3A4 inhibitor.

In vitro, plasma protein binding was more than 95%, with the important proteins being albumin, α 1-acid glycoprotein and lipoproteins. The in vitro plasma protein binding of docetaxel was not affected by dexamethasone, erythromycin, salicylate, sulfamethoxazole, diphenhydramine, propranolol, propafenone, phenytoin and sodium valproate. The binding of digitoxin was not affected by docetaxel.

In vivo investigations show that caution should be exercised when administering ketoconazole to patients as concomitant therapy since there is a potential for a significant interaction.

Docetaxel should be administered with caution in patients concomitantly receiving protease inhibitors (e.g. ritonavir) which are inhibitors and substrates of cytochrome P450-3A.

The amount of ethanol in TAXOTERE may alter the effects of other medicinal products.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Clinical Studies

Monotherapy

Breast, Non Small Cell Lung and Ovarian Cancer

The adverse reactions considered to be possibly or probably related to starting the administration of TAXOTERE have been obtained from 75 patients who received a dose of 75mg/m² without the recommended premedication, and from 2106 (2045 with normal* and 61 with elevated* LFTs at baseline) patients who received an initially planned dose of 100mg/m² over a one hour infusion every 3 weeks independently of the pre-medication. The patients were enrolled in 40 phase II and III studies conducted in Europe and North America (991 with breast carcinoma, 668 with non small cell lung carcinoma and 447 with various tumour types).

The safety profile is generally similar between patients receiving TAXOTERE for the treatment of breast, non small cell lung or ovarian carcinoma.

The following table lists the adverse reaction data:

Summary of adverse events in patients receiving TAXOTERE at 75 and 100mg/m² as a single agent

TAXOTERE dosage	Normal LFTs* at Baseline		Elevated LFTs* at Baseline
	75mg/m ²	100mg/m ²	100mg/m ²
Number of patients	n=75	n=2045	n=61
	%	%	%
Haematological Toxicity			
Neutropenia			
ANC~ <2.0 cells x 10 ⁹ /L	-	95.5	96.4
ANC~ <0.5 cells x 10 ⁹ /L	73.0	75.4	87.5
Febrile neutropenia			
(fever/ANC~ <0.5 x 10 ⁹ /L):			
by patient	-	11.0	26.2
by cycle	-	2.6*	8.7
(fever/ANC~ <1 x 10 ⁹ /L):			
by patient	5.0	-	-
by cycle	1.5	-	-
Thrombocytopenia			
<100 cells x 10 ⁹ /L	6.7	8.0	24.6
Anaemia			
<110 g/L	86.7	90.4	91.8
<80 g/L	9.0	8.8	31.1
Non-Haematological Toxicity			
Body as a whole:			
Fluid retention			
Regardless of premedication:			
All	61.0	47.0	39.3
Severe	9.3	6.9	8.2
3 day premedication:			
All	-	[n=92] 64.1	[n=3] 66.7
Severe	-	6.5	33.3

PRODUCT INFORMATION
Taxotere (1-Vial) - docetaxel

TAXOTERE dosage	Normal LFTs* at Baseline		Elevated LFTs* at Baseline
	75mg/m ²	100mg/m ²	100mg/m ²
Number of patients	n=75	n=2045	n=61
	%	%	%
Infections:			
overall	20.0	21.6*	32.8
severe	1.3	6.1*	16.4
Asthenia			
All	56.0	61.8	52.5
Severe	5.0	12.8	24.6
Myalgia	10.7	18.9	16.4
Arthralgia	0.0	9.2	6.6
Neurological			
Neurosensory:			
All	37.0	49.3	34.4
Severe	1.3	4.3	0.0
Neuromotor			
All	4.0	13.8	6.6
Severe	0.0	3.6	1.6
Cutaneous			
Skin:			
All	45.3	47.6	54.1
Severe	1.3	4.8	9.8
Nail disorders			
All	50.0	30.6	23.0
Alopecia	92.0	75.8	62.3

TAXOTERE dosage	Normal LFTs* at Baseline		Elevated LFTs* at Baseline
	75mg/m ²	100mg/m ²	100mg/m ²
Number of patients	n=75	n=2045	n=61
	%	%	%
Gastrointestinal			
Nausea	44.0	38.9	37.7
Diarrhoea	28.0	38.7	32.8
Vomiting	21.0	22.3	23.0
Stomatitis			
All	10.7	41.7	49.2
Severe	2.6	5.5	13.0
Mucositis	40.0	-	-
Infusion site reactions	5.6	4.4	3.3
consisting of hyperpigmentation, inflammation, redness or dryness of skin, phlebitis or extravasation and swelling of the vein			

* Normal liver function tests (LFTs): transaminase \leq 1.5 times upper limit of normal or alkaline phosphatase \leq 2.5 times upper limit of normal or isolated elevations of transaminase or alkaline phosphatase up to five times upper limit of normal

~ ANC - Absolute neutrophil count

Thirty-five toxic deaths (1.7%) were reported in the 2045 patients with normal baseline liver function tests treated with TAXOTERE as monotherapy at the initially planned dose of 100mg/m². Septic deaths (neutropenic infections, pneumonia or sepsis) accounted for 80% of the toxic deaths. The incidence of toxic deaths was higher (9.8%) in patients with elevated baseline LFTs.

Hypersensitivity reactions generally occur within a few minutes of the start of infusion and were generally mild to moderate. Frequently reported symptoms were flushing, rash with or without pruritus, chest tightness, back pain, dyspnoea and drug fever or chills (see **PRECAUTIONS**).

Haematological

Bone marrow suppression and other haematologic adverse reactions to docetaxel include:

Neutropenia (in patients who did not receive G-CSF), the most frequent adverse reaction, was reversible and not cumulative. The median day to nadir was 7 days and the median duration of severe neutropenia was 7 days.

Febrile neutropenia and severe infections associated with neutrophil counts $<0.5 \times 10^9/L$, infectious episodes (severe including sepsis pneumonia, fatal in 1.7%), occurred. Thrombocytopenia, bleeding episodes (rarely associated with severe thrombocytopenia) and anaemia (severe) were also reported.

Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), often in association with sepsis, or multi-organ failure, has been reported.

Neurologic

Mild to moderate neuro-sensory signs and/or symptoms occurred in 50% of the patients. Severe neurosensory symptoms (paresthesia, dysesthesia, pain including burning) were observed in 4.1% of metastatic breast cancer patients, and resulted in treatment discontinuation in 2%. Neuro-motor events (13.8% with 4% severe) mainly characterised by weakness. When these symptoms occur, dosage must be adjusted. If symptoms persist, treatment should be discontinued. Patients who experienced neurotoxicity in clinical trials and for whom follow-up information on the complete resolution of the event were available had spontaneous reversal of symptoms with a median of 81 days from onset (range 0 to 741 days).

Rare cases of convulsion or transient loss of consciousness have been observed with docetaxel administration. These reactions sometimes appear during the infusion of the drug.

Hepatic

In patients treated at 100mg/m² as a single agent, increase in serum levels of AST, ALT, bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase greater than 2.5 the ULN were observed in less than 5% of patients. Very rare cases of hepatitis have been reported.

Combination Therapy

Breast Cancer

Metastatic Breast Cancer

Combination with Capecitabine

The adverse reaction profile is consistent with the known toxicities of monotherapy treatments.

The most frequent treatment-related adverse reactions ($\geq 5\%$) reported in the phase III clinical trial for TAXOTERE in combination with capecitabine in patients with locally advanced and/or metastatic breast cancer (n=251) are shown in the table below.

The mean duration of treatment was 129 days in the combination arm and 98 days in the monotherapy arm. A total of 66 patients (26%) in the combination arm and 49 (20%) in the monotherapy arm discontinued from the trial because of adverse reactions. The percentages of patients requiring dose reductions due to adverse reactions were 65% in the combination arm and 36% in the monotherapy arm.

Treatment-related adverse reactions reported in ≥5% of patients treated with TAXOTERE in combination with capecitabine

Body system Adverse reaction	Capecitabine 1250mg/m ² twice daily with TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² /3 weeks (n=251)		Docetaxel 100mg/m ² /3 weeks (n=255)	
	All Grades %	Grade 3/4 %	All Grades %	Grade 3/4 %
Gastrointestinal				
Stomatitis	67	18	42	5
Diarrhoea	64	14	45	5
Nausea	43	6	35	2
Vomiting	33	4	22	1
Constipation	14	1	12	–
Abdominal pain	14	2	9	1
Dyspepsia	12	–	5	<1
Abdominal pain upper	9	–	6	1
Dry mouth	5	–	4	–
Cutaneous				
Hand-foot syndrome	63	24	7	1
Alopecia	41	6	42	7
Nail disorder	14	2	15	–
Dermatitis	8	–	9	1
Rash erythematous	8	<1	4	–
Nail discoloration	6	–	4	<1
Onycholysis	5	1	5	1
General				
Asthenia	23	3	22	5
Pyrexia	21	1	29	<1
Fatigue	21	4	25	5
Weakness	13	1	9	2
Pain in limb	9	<1	8	<1
Lethargy	6	–	5	1
Pain	6	–	2	–
Neurologic				
Taste disturbance	15	<1	14	<1
Paresthesia	11	<1	15	1
Dizziness	9	–	6	<1

	Capecitabine 1250mg/m ² twice daily with TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² /3 weeks (n=251)		Docetaxel 100mg/m ² /3 weeks (n=255)	
Body system	All Grades	Grade 3/4	All Grades	Grade 3/4
	%	%	%	%
Adverse reaction				
Headache	7	<1	8	1
Peripheral neuropathy	5	–	10	1
Cardiovascular				
Lower limb oedema	14	1	12	1
Sore throat	11	2	7	<1
Dyspnoea	7	1	9	<1
Cough	6	<1	9	–
Epistaxis	5	<1	5	–
Metabolism				
Anorexia	12	1	10	1
Decreased appetite	10	–	4	–
Dehydration	8	2	5	1
Decreased weight	6	–	4	–
Eye				
Increased lacrimation	12	–	5	–
Musculoskeletal				
Myalgia	14	2	24	2
Arthralgia	11	1	18	2
Back pain	7	1	6	1
Infection				
Oral candidiasis	6	<1	7	<1
Haematologic*				
Decreased haemoglobin	13	4	11	4
Neutropenic fever	21	16	21	21
Leukopenia	3	3	2	2
Biochemical laboratory abnormalities*				
Increased alkaline phosphatase	51	1	48	2
Increased bilirubin	23	9	6	3

Body system	Capecitabine 1250mg/m ² twice daily with TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² /3 weeks (n=251)		Docetaxel 100mg/m ² /3 weeks (n=255)	
	All Grades	Grade 3/4	All Grades	Grade 3/4
Adverse reaction	%	%	%	%
Increased AST	42	3	37	4
Increase ALT	30	2	30	2
Serum creatinine	7	<1	4	-

* Grades according to National Cancer Institute of Canada Toxicity Criteria, version 1, Dec 1994 were used

Frequent Grade 3 and 4 Laboratory Abnormalities were:

Adverse Event	capecitabine with docetaxel (n=251)
Laboratory Abnormalities	Grade 3/4
	%
Neutropenia	63
Anaemia	10
Thrombocytopenia	3
Hyperbilirubinemia	9

Rare or uncommon adverse reactions, as described for capecitabine monotherapy, can be expected for combination therapy as well. Refer to capecitabine Product Information for adverse reactions which are at least remotely related to capecitabine occurring in <5% of patients treated with capecitabine in combination with docetaxel.

Combination with Trastuzumab (HER 2+)

The table below displays adverse events (all Grades) which were reported in ≥10% of patients treated with TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab for metastatic breast cancer.

Body System	Adverse Event	TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab N=92 (%)
General disorders and administration site conditions	asthenia	45
	pyrexia	30
	fatigue	24
	mucosal inflammation	24
	rigors	11

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Body System	Adverse Event	TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab N=92 (%)
	pain	11
	chest pain	10
	influenza like illness	10
	lethargy	7
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	alopecia	67
	rash	24
	erythema	23
	nail disorder	16
Fluid Retention	peripheral	40
	weight increased	16
	lymphoedema	11
Gastrointestinal disorders	nausea	45
	diarrhoea	43
	vomiting	29
	constipation	27
	stomatitis	20
	dyspepsia	14
	abdominal pain	12
Nervous system disorders	paresthesia	32
	headache	21
	dysgeusia	14
	hypoesthesia	11
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	neutropenia	33
	febrile neutropenia	20
	anaemia	15
	leukopenia	12
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	myalgia	27
	arthralgia	27
	pain in extremity	16
	bone pain	14
	back pain	11
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	epistaxis	20
	pharyngolaryngeal pain	16

Body System	Adverse Event	TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab N=92 (%)
	nasopharyngitis	15
	dyspnoea	14
	cough	13
	rhinorrhoea	12
Eye disorders	lacrimation increased	21
	conjunctivitis	12
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	anorexia	22
Psychiatric disorders	insomnia	12
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	nail toxicity	11

There was an increased incidence of SAEs (40% vs. 31%) and Grade 4 AEs (34% vs. 23%) in the combination arm compared to TAXOTERE monotherapy.

Cardiac Toxicity

The incidence of symptomatic congestive heart failure in the study of TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab versus TAXOTERE alone, is shown in the table below:

Overview of cardiac adverse event incidence (n, %) [95%-confidence limits]

	TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab N=92	TAXOTERE N=94
Symptomatic heart failure	2 (2.2%)	0%

In this study, all patients had a baseline cardiac ejection fraction of greater than 50%. In the TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab arm, 64% had received a prior anthracycline as adjuvant therapy, compared with 55% in the TAXOTERE alone arm.

Haematological Toxicity

Grade 3/4 neutropenia was reported in 32% of the patients given TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab.

Adjuvant Treatment of Breast Cancer

Combination with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide

The following table presents clinically important treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) observed in 744 patients, who were treated with TAXOTERE 75mg/m² every 3 weeks in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide and 736 patients, treated with the comparator study drugs.

Clinically important treatment emergent adverse events (TEAEs) considered related to study treatment in patients receiving TAXOTERE in combination with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide

Body System Adverse Event	TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² + Doxorubicin 50mg/m ² + Cyclophosphamide 500mg/m ² n=744		Fluorouracil 500mg/m ² + Doxorubicin 50mg/m ² + Cyclophosphamide 500mg/m ² n=736	
	Any (%)	Grade 3/4 (%)	Any (%)	Grade 3/4 (%)
Cutaneous				
Alopecia	97.7	N/A	97.1	N/A
Skin toxicity	18.4	0.7	10.9	0.3
Nail disorders	18.4	0.4	13.9	0.1
Haematologic				
Anaemia	91.5	4.3	71.7	1.6
Neutropenia	71.4	65.5	82.0	49.3
Thrombocytopenia	39.4	2.0	27.7	1.2
Febrile neutropenia	24.7	N/A	2.5	N/A
Neutropenic infection	12.1	N/A	6.3	N/A
Gastrointestinal				
Nausea	80.4	5.1	87.4	9.5
Stomatitis	69.1	7.1	52.6	2.0
Vomiting	42.6	4.3	58.2	7.3
Diarrhoea	30.9	3.2	23.5	1.0
Constipation	22.6	0.4	21.5	1.2
Abdominal pain	7.3	0.5	3.3	0.0

	TAXOTERE 75mg/m² + Doxorubicin 50mg/m² + Cyclophosphamide 500mg/m²		Fluorouracil 500mg/m² + Doxorubicin 50mg/m² + Cyclophosphamide 500mg/m²	
	n=744		n=736	
Body System	Any	Grade 3/4	Any	Grade 3/4
Adverse Event	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
General				
Asthenia	79.2	11.0	69.4	5.2
Fever in absence of infection	43.1	1.2	13.2	0.0
Infection*	27.2	3.2	17.4	0.0
Peripheral oedema	26.7	0.4	7.2	0.0
Hypersensitivity reactions	10.5	1.1	2.2	0.0
Lymphoedema	0.3	0.0	0.0	
Gynaecologic				
Amenorrhoea	57.6	N/A	48.1	N/A
Neurologic				
Taste perversion	27.4	0.7	15.1	0.0
Neuropathy sensory	23.8	0.0	7.9	0.0
Neuro-cortical	2.8	0.3	3.9	0.3
Neuropathy motor	2.8	0.0	1.5	0.0
Neuro-cerebellar	1.1	0.1	0.8	0.0
Neuro-cerebellar	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.0
Syncope				
Musculoskeletal				
Myalgia	22.8	0.8	8.0	0.0
Arthralgia	15.1	0.4	5.7	0.3
Cardiovascular				
CHF	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.5
Vasodilatation	20.3	0.9	15.9	0.4
Cardiac dysrhythmias**	3.9	0.1	2.9	0.3
Hypotension	1.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
Hypotension	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.0
Phlebitis				
Metabolic				
Anorexia	19.9	2.2	16.4	1.2
Weight gain or loss	15.2	0.3	9.2	0.0

	TAXOTERE 75mg/m² + Doxorubicin 50mg/m² + Cyclophosphamide 500mg/m²		Fluorouracil 500mg/m² + Doxorubicin 50mg/m² + Cyclophosphamide 500mg/m²	
	n=744		n=736	
Body System	Any	Grade 3/4	Any	Grade 3/4
Adverse Event	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Eye				
Lacrimation disorder	9.8	0.1	6.4	0.0
Conjunctivitis	4.6	0.3	6.0	0.1
Respiratory				
Cough	3.1	0.0	2.2	0.1
N/A	not applicable			
*	there was no septic death in either treatment arms			
**	one patient died due to heart failure in TAC arm			

Of the 744 patients treated with TAC, 33.1% experienced severe TEAEs. Dose reductions due to haematologic toxicity occurred in 1% of cycles in TAC arm. Six percent of patients treated with TAC discontinued treatment due to adverse events; fever in the absence of infection and allergy being the most common reasons for withdrawal. *Two patients died within 30 days of their last study treatment; 1 death was considered to be related to study drug.

Fever and Infection

Fever in the absence of infection was seen in patients and infection was seen in patients. There were no septic deaths during the study period.

Gastrointestinal Events

In addition to gastrointestinal events reflected in the above table, patients were reported to have colitis/enteritis/large intestine perforation in the TAC arm. Two of these patients required treatment discontinuation; no deaths due to these events occurred during the treatment period.

Acute Myeloid Leukaemia/Myelodysplastic Syndrome

At a median follow-up time of 83 months, AML occurred in three of 744 (0.4%) patients who received TAXOTERE, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide and in one of 736 (0.1%) patients who receive fluorouracil, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide.

Cardiovascular Events

The following cardiovascular events were reported: dysrhythmias, all Grades (3.9%), hypotension, all Grades (1.5%) and CHF (2.3% at 70 months median follow-up). One patient died due to heart failure.

Other Persistent Reactions

The following events were observed to be ongoing at the median follow-up time of 55 months: alopecia, asthenia, amenorrhea, neurosensory and peripheral oedema. Among the adverse events that persisted into the follow-up period in >1% of patients, the majority of events resolved; however, amenorrhoea, and lymphoedema remained ongoing in TAC patients.

Combination with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide and Trastuzumab and with Carboplatin and Trastuzumab (HER2+)

**Adverse Events (AEs) Related to Study Treatment, Occurring at Any Time During the Study:
Safety population (incidence of ≥ 5% for non-cardiac AEs; incidence of ≥ 1% for cardiac AEs)**

Adverse Event (NCI-CTC term)	AC-T n=1050		AC-TH n=1068		TCH n=1056	
	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)
Alopecia	1029 (98.0)	0	1047 (98.0)	0	1012 (95.8)	0
Haemoglobin ^a	957 (91.1)	25 (2.4)	1036 (97.0)	34 (3.2)	1017 (96.3)	61 (5.8)
Nausea	916 (87.2)	61 (5.8)	931 (87.2)	57 (5.3)	853 (80.8)	49 (4.6)
Leucocytes ^a	878 (83.6)	540 (51.4)	929 (87.0)	643 (60.2)	877 (83.0)	507 (48.0)
Neutrophils ^a	859 (81.8)	664 (63.2)	922 (86.3)	761 (71.3)	859 (81.3)	696 (65.9)
Fatigue	844 (80.4)	71 (6.8)	868 (81.3)	71 (6.6)	849 (80.4)	73 (6.9)
Stomatitis/pharyngitis	663 (63.1)	38 (3.6)	694 (65.0)	32 (3.0)	547 (51.8)	15 (1.4)
Vomiting	571 (54.4)	61 (5.8)	591 (55.3)	68 (6.4)	416 (39.4)	32 (3.0)
SGPT (ALT) ^a	506 (48.2)	7 (0.7)	579 (54.2)	19 (1.8)	561 (53.1)	25 (2.4)
Fluid retention ^{a,b}	533 (50.8)	14 (1.3)	558 (52.2)	16 (1.5)	539 (51.0)	15 (1.4)
Myalgia	515 (49.0)	49 (4.7)	544 (50.9)	52 (4.9)	353 (33.4)	15 (1.4)
Diarrhoea	395 (37.6)	31 (3.0)	484 (45.3)	55 (5.1)	589 (55.8)	52 (4.9)
Neuropathy-sensory	464 (44.2)	23 (2.2)	478 (44.8)	20 (1.9)	316 (29.9)	6 (0.6)
SGOT (AST) ^a	426 (40.6)	2 (0.2)	454 (42.5)	9 (0.8)	401 (38.0)	11 (1.0)
Arthralgia	372 (35.4)	30 (2.9)	424 (39.7)	32 (3.0)	230 (21.8)	11 (1.0)
Nail changes	487 (46.4)	0	423 (39.6)	0	246 (23.3)	0
Platelets ^a	296 (28.2)	10 (1.0)	350 (32.8)	13 (1.2)	667 (63.2)	57 (5.4)
Irregular menses	353 (33.6)	248 (23.6)	311 (29.1)	213 (19.9)	340 (32.2)	226 (21.4)

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Adverse Event (NCI-CTC term)	AC-T n=1050		AC-TH n=1068		TCH n=1056	
	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)
Taste disturbance	297 (28.3)	0	290 (27.2)	0	312 (29.5)	0
Constipation	276 (26.3)	6 (0.6)	289 (27.1)	10 (0.9)	232 (22.0)	6 (0.6)
Rash/desquamation	224 (21.3)	16 (1.5)	277 (25.9)	14 (1.3)	241 (22.8)	4 (0.4)
Hot flashes/flushes	220 (21.0)	0	230 (21.5)	0	192 (18.2)	0
Tearing	191 (18.2)	0	228 (21.3)	3 (0.3)	109 (10.3)	0
Alkaline phosphatase ^a	202 (19.2)	3 (0.3)	206 (19.3)	3 (0.3)	215 (20.4)	3 (0.3)
Anorexia	214 (20.4)	5 (0.5)	205 (19.2)	5 (0.5)	222 (21.0)	5 (0.5)
Dyspepsia/heartburn	150 (14.3)	3 (0.3)	203 (19.0)	3 (0.3)	211 (20.0)	4 (0.4)
Headache	163 (15.5)	4 (0.4)	175 (16.4)	6 (0.6)	160 (15.2)	3 (0.3)
Dyspnea	156 (14.9)	8 (0.8)	166 (15.5)	16 (1.5)	157 (14.9)	18 (1.7)
Weight gain	114 (10.9)	3 (0.3)	159 (14.9)	3 (0.3)	154 (14.6)	2 (0.2)
Infection without neutropenia	105 (10.0)	17 (1.6)	135 (12.6)	20 (1.9)	98 (9.3)	16 (1.5)
Abdominal pain or cramping	108 (10.3)	3 (0.3)	132 (12.4)	4 (0.4)	141 (13.4)	5 (0.5)
Insomnia	106 (10.1)	0	119 (11.1)	1 (0.1)	93 (8.8)	0
Febrile neutropenia	95 (9.0)	95 (9.0)	116 (10.9)	116 (10.9)	103 (9.8)	103 (9.8)
Fever (without neutropenia)	95 (9.0)	3 (0.3)	116 (10.9)	4 (0.4)	70 (6.6)	3 (0.3)
Allergic reaction/hypersensitivity	75 (7.1)	12 (1.1)	105 (9.8)	15 (1.4)	139 (13.2)	26 (2.5)
Bone pain	97 (9.2)	10 (1.0)	104 (9.7)	4 (0.4)	67 (6.3)	1 (0.1)
Infection with Grade 3/4 neutropenia	83 (7.9)	83 (7.9)	98 (9.2)	98 (9.2)	81 (7.7)	81 (7.7)
Pain ^c	98 (9.3)	4 (0.4)	86 (8.1)	4 (0.4)	57 (5.4)	0
Conjunctivitis	84 (8.0)	5 (0.5)	86 (8.1)	0	35 (3.3)	0
Dizziness / lightheadedness	65 (6.2)	1 (0.1)	78 (7.3)	7 (0.7)	70 (6.6)	4 (0.4)
Creatinine ^a	39 (3.7)	7 (0.7)	72 (6.7)	5 (0.5)	102 (9.7)	6 (0.6)
Hand-foot skin reaction	84 (8.0)	20 (1.9)	72 (6.7)	15 (1.4)	29 (2.7)	0
Epistaxis	40 (3.8)	0	72 (6.7)	0	104 (9.8)	4 (0.4)
Weight loss	63 (6.0)	0	71 (6.6)	0	56 (5.3)	1 (0.1)
Dry skin	63 (6.0)	0	69 (6.5)	0	41 (3.9)	0
Cough	55 (5.2)	1 (0.1)	66 (6.2)	2 (0.2)	36 (3.4)	0
Rhinitis ^c	49 (4.7)	2 (0.2)	64 (6.0)	1 (0.1)	47 (4.5)	0
Rigors, chills	33 (3.1)	0	63 (5.9)	0	54 (5.1)	0
Infection with unknown ANC	73 (7.0)	73 (7.0)	59 (5.5)	59 (5.5)	38 (3.6)	38 (3.6)
Neuropathy-motor	44 (4.2)	2 (0.2)	57 (5.3)	4 (0.4)	38 (3.6)	3 (0.3)

Adverse Event (NCI-CTC term)	AC-T n=1050		AC-TH n=1068		TCH n=1056	
	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)	Overall n (%)	Grade 3/4 n (%)
Bilirubin ^a	52 (5.0)	6 (0.6)	54 (5.1)	4 (0.4)	61 (5.8)	4 (0.4)
Injection site reaction	47 (4.5)	2 (0.2)	50 (4.7)	1 (0.1)	61 (5.8)	2 (0.2)
Mouth dryness	76 (7.2)	0	43 (4.0)	0	29 (2.7)	0
Cardiac left ventricular function	11 (1.0)	1 (0.1)	37 (3.5)	5 (0.5)	15 (1.4)	1 (0.1)
Palpitations	32 (3.0)	0	36 (3.4)	0	47 (4.5)	0
Sinus tachycardia	21 (2.0)	2 (0.2)	19 (1.8)	0	23 (2.2)	0
Hypotension	10 (1.0)	1 (0.1)	10 (0.9)	0	13 (1.2)	2 (0.2)

ACT = doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide and TAXOTERE

AC-TH = doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide, followed by TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab. TCH = TAXOTERE in combination with trastuzumab and carboplatin.

^a Regardless of causality

^b Fluid retention AEs are defined as "oedema only", or "weight gain only", or "lung oedema only", or "oedema and weight gain", or "oedema and lung oedema", or "oedema + weight gain + lung oedema". "Fluid retention" corresponds to the NCI-CTC term "oedema".

^c COSTART term

The 3 year cumulative incidence of all symptomatic cardiac events was 2.36% and 1.16% in the AC-TH and TCH arms, respectively (versus 0.52% in the AC-T control arm, see **CLINICAL TRIALS** section). The 3 year cumulative incidence of CHF events (Grade 3 or 4) was 1.9% and 0.4% in the AC-TH and TCH arms, respectively (versus 0.3% in the AC-T control arm).

Combination with Cyclophosphamide (TC)

Whilst overall the toxicity profiles were similar, there were some differences between TC and AC. AC was associated with more nausea and vomiting (all grades as well as grades 3 and 4), but TC had more low-grade oedema, myalgia, and arthralgia secondary to the use of docetaxel. The exception was cardiac toxicity. In the AC arm one patient died of congestive heart failure and there were four deaths due to myocardial infarction. At the 7 year follow up another death in the AC arm was attributed to congestive heart failure. In the TC arm there were no deaths attributed to congestive heart failure and two deaths from myocardial infarction.

***Tabulated frequency of the most common adverse events**

Adverse Event*	TC Patients (n=506)				AC Patients (n=510)			
	Grade (%)				Grade (%)			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Haematologic								
Anaemia	3	2	<1	<1	4	3	1	<1
Neutropenia	<1	1	10	51	1	2	12	43
Thrombocytopenia	<1	<1	0	<1	<1	<1	1	0
Nonhaematologic								
Asthenia	43	32	3	<1	42	31	4	<1
Oedema	27	7	<1	0	17	3	<1	<1
Fever	14	5	3	2	11	4	2	<1
Infection	8	4	7	<1	7	5	8	<1
Myalgia	22	10	1	<1	11	5	<1	<1
Nausea	38	13	2	<1	43	32	7	<1
Phlebitis	8	3	<1	0	1	1	0	0
Stomatitis	23	10	<1	<1	29	15	1	1
Vomiting	9	5	<1	<1	21	16	5	<1

AC – doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide; TC – docetaxel and cyclophosphamide

*COSTART term

Prostate Cancer

Combination with Prednisone or Prednisolone

The adverse reaction profile is consistent with the known safety profile of TAXOTERE.

The table below provides the percentage of subjects with clinically important treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and haematological toxicities related to study treatment, reported in the phase III clinical trial for TAXOTERE 75mg/m² q3w and mitozantrone q3w in combination with prednisone (or prednisolone).

Clinically important treatment emergent adverse events related to study medication

	TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² every 3 weeks (n=332)		Mitozantrone 12mg/m ² every 3 weeks (n=335)	
	Grade 3/4	Any	Grade 3/4	Any
		%		%

	TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² every 3 weeks (n=332)		Mitozantrone 12mg/m ² every 3 weeks (n=335)	
	%		%	
	Grade 3/4	Any	Grade 3/4	Any
Cutaneous				
Alopecia	N/A*	65.1	N/A*	12.5
Nail changes	0.0	28.3	0.0	6.6
Rash/desquamation	0.3	3.3	0.0	0.9
Haematologic				
Neutropenia	32.0	40.9	21.7	48.2
Anaemia	4.9	66.5	1.8	57.8
Thrombocytopenia	0.6	3.4	1.2	7.8
Epistaxis	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.6
Febrile neutropenia	N/A*	2.7	N/A*	1.8
General				
Fatigue	3.9	42.8	2.7	26.6
Infection	3.3	12.0	2.1	4.8
Stomatitis/pharyngitis	0.9	17.8	0.0	7.8
Fluid retention	0.6	24.4	0.3	4.5
Allergic reaction	0.6	6.9	0.0	0.3
Anorexia	0.6	12.7	0.0	11.6
Gastrointestinal				
Nausea	2.4	35.5	0.9	28.7
Diarrhoea	1.2	24.1	0.9	4.2
Vomiting	1.2	13.3	0.6	7.2
Neurologic				
Neuropathy sensory	1.2	27.4	0.0	2.1
Taste disturbance	0.0	17.5	0.0	6.3
Neuropathy motor	0.0	3.9	0.0	0.9
Respiratory				
Dyspnea	0.6	4.5	0.3	3.3
Cough	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.9
Eye				
Tearing	0.6	9.3	0.0	1.5

	TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² every 3 weeks (n=332)		Mitozantrone 12mg/m ² every 3 weeks (n=335)	
	Grade 3/4	Any	Grade 3/4	Any
Musculoskeletal				
Myalgia	0.3	6.9	0.0	3.3
Arthralgia	0.3	3.0	0.0	0.6
Cardiovascular				
Abnormal cardiac left ventricular function	0.3	3.9	0.9	19.1

* NA: not applicable.

Head and Neck Cancer

Combination with Cisplatin and Fluorouracil

The following table summarises the safety data obtained in 174 patients (TAX 323) and 251 patients (TAX 324) with locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN) who were treated with TAXOTERE 75mg/m² in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil.

Clinically Important Treatment-Related Adverse Events in Patients with SCCHN Receiving TAXOTERE in Combination with Cisplatin and Fluorouracil

Adverse Event	TAX323: TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² + cisplatin 75mg/m ² + fluorouracil 750mg/m ² (n=174)		TAX 324: TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² + cisplatin 100mg/m ² + fluorouracil 1000mg/m ² (n=251)	
	Any %	Grade 3/4 %	Any %	Grade 3/4 %
Blood and lymphatic system				
Neutropenia	93.1	76.3	94.8	83.5
Anaemia	89.1	9.2	90.0	12.4
Thrombocytopenia	23.6	5.2	27.5	4.0
Infection	15.5	6.3	13.1	3.6
Fever in absence of infection	14.4	0.6	26.3	3.6
Neutropenic infection	11.0	0.0	6.5	N/A
Febrile neutropenia*	5.2	0.0	12.1	N/A
Allergy	2.9	0.0	0.4	0.0

Adverse Event	TAX323: TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² + cisplatin 75mg/m ² + fluorouracil 750mg/m ² (n=174)		TAX 324: TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² + cisplatin 100mg/m ² + fluorouracil 1000mg/m ² (n=251)	
	Any %	Grade 3/4 %	Any %	Grade 3/4 %
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders				
Alopecia	79.9	10.9	67.7	4.0
Rash/itch	8.6	0.0	12.7	0.0
Dry skin	5.2	0.0	2.8	0.4
Desquamation	4.0	0.6	2.0	0.0
Fluid retention	20.1	0.0	13.1	1.2
Oedema only	12.6	0.0	12.0	1.2
Weight gain only	5.7	0.0	0.4	0.0
Gastrointestinal disorders				
Nausea	43.7	0.6	75.7	13.9
Stomatitis	42.0	4.0	64.5	20.7
Diarrhoea	29.3	2.9	42.2	6.8
Vomiting	25.9	0.6	56.2	8.4
Taste/sense of smell altered	10.3	-	19.5	0.4
Constipation	6.9	0.0	13.9	0.4
Oesophagitis/dysphagia/odynophagia	5.7	0.6	21.9	12.0
Gastrointestinal pain/cramping	5.2	-	6.0	1.2
Heartburn	4.0	-	8.8	0.8
Gastrointestinal bleeding	1.1	0.6	2.0	0.4
Nervous system disorders				
Neurosensory	16.7	0.6	11.6	1.2
Neuromotor	-	-	7.2	0.4
Dizziness	1.1	-	9.6	2.0
Cardiac disorders				
Myocardial Ischemia	1.7	1.7	0.8	0.8
Cardiac dysrhythmia	0.6	0.6	3.2	0.2
Vascular disorders				
Venous	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.4
Metabolism and nutrition disorders				
Anorexia	15.5	0.6	37.8	12.0

Adverse Event	TAX323: TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² + cisplatin 75mg/m ² + fluorouracil 750mg/m ² (n=174)		TAX 324: TAXOTERE 75mg/m ² + cisplatin 100mg/m ² + fluorouracil 1000mg/m ² (n=251)	
	Any %	Grade 3/4 %	Any %	Grade 3/4 %
Weight loss	9.8	0	11.2	0.0
Eye disorders				
Tearing	1.7	0	1.6	0.0
Conjunctivitis	1.1	0	0.8	0.0
Ear and labyrinth disorders				
Altered hearing	5.7	0	11.2	1.2
Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders				
Myalgia	6.3	0.6	5.2	0.4
General disorders and administration site conditions				
Lethargy	37.9	3.4	58.6	4.0
Cancer pain	1.1	0.6	3.2	1.2

* Febrile neutropenia: Grade ≥ 2 fever concomitant with Grade 4 neutropenia requiring i.v. antibiotics and/or hospitalisation
Clinically important TEAEs were determined based upon frequency, severity, and clinical impact of the adverse event

Post Marketing Reactions

The following information relates to serious events observed following the marketing of TAXOTERE. Voluntary reports of serious adverse events that have been received since market introduction (without causal relationship) that are not listed previously are cited below. Frequency estimates are as follows: common $\geq 1-10\%$, uncommon 0.1-1%; rare 0.01-0.1%; very rare $<0.01\%$.

Body as a Whole

Uncommon: chest pain, diffuse pain.

Rare: abdominal pain.

Very rare: radiation recall phenomenon.

Hypersensitivity

Rare: cases of anaphylactic shock have been reported.

Very rare: anaphylactic shock resulted in a fatal outcome in patients who received premedication.

Hypersensitivity reactions with potential fatal outcome have been reported with docetaxel in patients who previously experienced hypersensitivity reactions to paclitaxel.

Cutaneous

Very rare: cases of cutaneous lupus erythematosus and bullous eruptions such as erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis and scleroderma-like changes have been reported. Multiple factors such as concomitant infections, concomitant medications and underlying disease may have contributed to the development of these effects. Cases of permanent alopecia have been reported.

Severe nail disorders characterised by hypo- or hyperpigmentation, and infrequently onycholysis and pain.

Fluid retention

Rare: dehydration and pulmonary oedema have been reported.

Gastrointestinal

Rare: constipation, oesophagitis and taste perversion, ileus and intestinal obstruction, gastrointestinal perforation, neutropenic enterocolitis, colitis including ischemic colitis, gastrointestinal haemorrhage, dehydration as a consequence of gastrointestinal events including enterocolitis and gastrointestinal perforation.

Very rare: duodenal ulcer.

Neurologic

Rare: confusion, seizures, transient loss of consciousness. These reactions sometimes occur during infusion of the drug.

Cardiovascular

Common: hypertension, hypotension.

Uncommon: cardiac arrhythmia, congestive heart failure.

Rare: atrial fibrillation, syncope, tachycardia, myocardial infarction, deep vein thrombosis.

Very rare: ECG abnormalities, thrombophlebitis, pulmonary embolism.

Ventricular arrhythmia including ventricular tachycardia, sometimes fatal, has been reported in patients treated with docetaxel in combination regimens including doxorubicin, fluorouracil and/or cyclophosphamide.

Hepatic

Very rare: hepatitis, sometimes fatal, primarily in patients with pre-existing liver disorders, have been reported.

Ear and labyrinth disorders

Rare: cases of ototoxicity, hearing disorders and/or hearing loss have been reported, including cases associated with other ototoxic drugs.

Eye disorders

Rare: cases of lacrimation with or without conjunctivitis have been reported and very rare cases of lacrimal duct obstruction resulting in excessive tearing have been reported primarily in patients receiving other anti-tumour agents concomitantly.

Cases of transient visual disturbances (flashes, flashing lights, scotomata) typically occurring during drug infusion and in association with hypersensitivity have been reported. These were reversible upon discontinuation of the infusion.

Cases of Cystoid Macular Oedema (CMO) have been reported in patients treated with docetaxel, as well as with other taxanes.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Uncommon: dyspnoea.

Rare: Acute respiratory distress syndrome, interstitial pneumonia/pneumonitis, interstitial lung disease, acute pulmonary oedema, pulmonary fibrosis, respiratory failure, and radiation recall phenomena have rarely been reported, and may be associated with fatal outcome. Rare cases of radiation pneumonitis have been reported in patients receiving concomitant therapy.

General disorders and administration site conditions

Injection site recall reaction (recurrence of skin reaction at a site of previous extravasation following administration of docetaxel at a different site) has been observed at the site of previous extravasation.

Blood and lymphatic disorders

Very rare: cases of acute myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndrome have been reported in association with docetaxel when used in combination with other chemotherapy agents and/or radiotherapy.

Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), often in association with sepsis, or multiorgan failure, has been reported

Renal and urinary disorders

Rare: renal insufficiency and renal failure associated with concomitant nephrotoxic drugs have been reported.

Other

Common: generalised or localised pain including chest pain without cardiac or respiratory involvement.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Cases of electrolyte imbalance have been reported. Cases of hyponatraemia have been reported, mostly associated with dehydration, vomiting and pneumonia. Hypokalaemia, hypomagnesaemia

and hypocalcaemia were observed, usually in association with gastrointestinal disorders and in particular diarrhoea.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommended Dosage

Breast Cancer

Metastatic Breast Cancer

Monotherapy

The recommended dosage of TAXOTERE is 75 to 100mg/m² administered as a one-hour infusion every three weeks (see **Preparation for the Intravenous Administration**). A dose of 100mg/m² has been shown to result in a moderate increase in response rates compared with 75mg/m² but is associated with greater toxicity.

Combination with Capecitabine

The recommended dosage of TAXOTERE is 75mg/m² administered as a one-hour infusion every three weeks when combined with capecitabine administered orally at 1,250mg/m² twice daily (within 30 minutes after the end of a meal) for two weeks followed by a 1 week rest period, given as 3 week cycles. Refer to capecitabine Product Information for capecitabine dose calculation according to body surface area.

Combination with Trastuzumab (HER2+)

For the TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab combination, the recommended TAXOTERE dose is 100mg/m² every three weeks, with trastuzumab administered weekly. For trastuzumab dosage and administration, see the trastuzumab Product Information leaflet.

Adjuvant Treatment of Breast Cancer

Combination with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide

The recommended dose of TAXOTERE in the adjuvant treatment of breast cancer is 75mg/m² administered 1 hour after doxorubicin 50mg/m² and cyclophosphamide 500mg/m² every 3 weeks for a total of six cycles (see also **Dosage Adjustments During Treatment** and **PRECAUTIONS, Haematology**).

Combination with Trastuzumab following Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide (HER2+)

- AC-TH:

AC (cycles 1 – 4): doxorubicin (A) 60 mg/m² followed by cyclophosphamide (C) 600 mg/m² administered every three weeks for 4 cycles.

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TH (cycles 5 – 8): docetaxel (T) 100 mg/m² administered every three weeks for 4 cycles, and trastuzumab (H) administered weekly according the following schedule:

- Cycle 5 (starting three weeks after the last cycle of AC):

Day 1: trastuzumab 4 mg/kg (loading dose)

Day 2: docetaxel 100 mg/m²

Days 8 and 15: trastuzumab 2 mg/kg

- Cycles 6 – 8:

Day 1: docetaxel 100 mg/m² and trastuzumab 2 mg/kg

Days 8 and 15: trastuzumab 2 mg/kg

Three weeks after day 1 of cycle 8: trastuzumab 6 mg/kg is given every three weeks.

Trastuzumab is administered for a total duration of 1 year.

Combination with Carboplatin and Trastuzumab (HER2+)

- **TCH:**

TCH (cycles 1 – 6): docetaxel (T) 75 mg/m² and carboplatin (C) at AUC of 6 mg/mL/min administered every three weeks and trastuzumab (H) administered weekly according the following schedule:

- Cycle 1:

Day 1: trastuzumab 4 mg/kg (loading dose)

Day 2: docetaxel 75 mg/m² and carboplatin at AUC of 6 mg/mL/min

Days 8 and 15: trastuzumab 2 mg/kg

- Cycles 2 – 6:

Day 1: docetaxel 75 mg/m² followed by carboplatin at AUC of 6 mg/mL/min and trastuzumab 2 mg/kg

Days 8 and 15: trastuzumab 2 mg/kg

Three weeks after day 1 of cycle 6: trastuzumab 6 mg/kg is given every three weeks.

Trastuzumab is administered for a total duration of 1 year.

Combination with Cyclophosphamide

The recommended dosage is TAXOTERE 75mg/m² over 1 hour and cyclophosphamide 600mg/m² as an intravenous administration over 30 to 60 minutes on day 1 of a 21 day cycle for a total of four cycles. Premedication with oral dexamethasone 8mg twice daily is administered commencing 1 day before administering TAXOTERE, and continuing for a total of five doses.

Non Small Cell Lung Cancer

The recommended dosage of TAXOTERE is 75 to 100mg/m² administered as a one-hour infusion every three weeks (see **Preparation for the Intravenous Administration**). A dose of 100mg/m²

has been shown to result in a moderate increase in response rates compared with 75mg/m² but is associated with greater toxicity.

Ovarian Cancer

The recommended dosage of TAXOTERE is 75 to 100mg/m² administered as a one-hour infusion every three weeks (see **Preparation for the Intravenous Administration**). A dose of 100mg/m² has been shown to result in a moderate increase in response rates compared with 75mg/m² but is associated with greater toxicity.

Prostate Cancer

The recommended dosage of TAXOTERE for prostate cancer is 75mg/m² administered as a one-hour infusion every three weeks. Prednisone or prednisolone 5mg orally twice daily is administered continuously, commencing day 1 and continuing through each cycle.

Head and Neck Cancer

Patients must receive premedication with antiemetics and appropriate hydration (prior to and after cisplatin administration). Prophylaxis for neutropenic infections should be administered. For cisplatin and fluorouracil dose modifications, see manufacturers' Product Information.

Induction chemotherapy followed by radiotherapy (TAX 323)

For the induction treatment of locally advanced inoperable squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN), the recommended dose of TAXOTERE is 75mg/m² as a one hour infusion followed by cisplatin 75mg/m² over one hour, on day one, followed by fluorouracil as a continuous infusion at 750mg/m² per day for five days. This regimen is administered every 3 weeks for 4 cycles. Following chemotherapy, patients should receive radiotherapy.

Induction chemotherapy followed by chemoradiotherapy (TAX 324)

For the induction treatment of patients with locally advanced (unresectable, low surgical cure, or organ preservation) SCCHN, the recommended dose of TAXOTERE is 75mg/m² as a 1 hour intravenous infusion on day 1, followed by cisplatin 100mg/m² administered as a 30 minute to 3 hour infusion, followed by fluorouracil 1000mg/m² as a continuous infusion from day 1 to day 4. This regimen is administered every 3 weeks for 3 cycles. Following chemotherapy, patients should receive chemoradiotherapy.

Premedication in Breast, Non Small Cell Lung, Ovarian and Head and Neck Cancers

A premedication consisting of an oral corticosteroid, such as dexamethasone 16mg per day (e.g. 8mg twice daily) for 3 days starting one day prior to docetaxel administration, unless contraindicated, can reduce the incidence and severity of fluid retention as well as the severity of hypersensitivity reactions.

Premedication in Prostate Cancer

For prostate cancer, given the concurrent use of prednisone or prednisolone, the recommended premedication regimen is oral dexamethasone 8mg, 12 hours, 3 hours and 1 hour before the docetaxel infusion.

Dosage Adjustments During Treatment

TAXOTERE should be administered when the neutrophil count is ≥ 1.5 cells $\times 10^9/L$.

In Patients Treated at 75mg/m²

Patients who experienced either febrile neutropenia, neutrophil < 0.5 cells $\times 10^9/L$ for more than one week, severe or cumulative cutaneous reactions or severe neurosensory signs and/or symptoms during TAXOTERE therapy should have the dosage of TAXOTERE reduced from 75mg/m² to 55mg/m² (or to 60mg/m² for adjuvant therapy for breast cancer). If the patient continues to experience these reactions at 55mg/m² (or at 60mg/m²), the treatment should be discontinued.

In Patients Treated at 100mg/m²

Patients who experienced either febrile neutropenia, neutrophil < 0.5 cells $\times 10^9/L$ for more than one week, severe or cumulative cutaneous reactions or severe neurosensory signs and/or symptoms during TAXOTERE therapy should have the dosage of TAXOTERE reduced from 100mg/m² to 75mg/m². If the patient continues to experience these reactions at 75mg/m², the dosage should either be decreased from 75mg/m² to 55mg/m², or the treatment should be discontinued.

Patients Treated with TAXOTERE in Combination with Capecitabine

For capecitabine dose modifications when combined with TAXOTERE, see capecitabine Product Information.

For patients developing the first appearance of a Grade 2 toxicity which persists at the time of the next TAXOTERE/capecitabine treatment, delay treatment until resolved to Grade 0-1, and resume at 100% of the original dose.

For patients developing the second appearance of Grade 2 toxicity, or the first appearance of a Grade 3 toxicity, at any time during the treatment cycle, delay treatment until resolved to Grade 0-1, then resume treatment with TAXOTERE 55mg/m².

For any subsequent appearances of toxicities, or any Grade 4 toxicities, discontinue the TAXOTERE dose.

Patients Treated with TAXOTERE in Combination with Trastuzumab

For the TAXOTERE plus trastuzumab combination, the recommended TAXOTERE dose is 100mg/m² every three weeks, with trastuzumab administered weekly. For trastuzumab dosage and administration, see the trastuzumab Product Information leaflet.

Patients Treated with TAXOTERE in Combination with Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide (TAC)

In the TAXOTERE, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide (TAC) treated patients, the risk of delayed myelodysplasia or myeloid leukaemia requires haematological follow-up (see **ADVERSE EFFECTS**).

Patients who receive adjuvant therapy for breast cancer and who experience febrile neutropenia should receive G-CSF in all subsequent cycles. Patients who continue to experience this reaction should remain on G-CSF and have their TAXOTERE dose reduced to 60mg/m². If G-CSF is not used, the TAXOTERE dose should be reduced from 75 to 60mg/m². Patients who experience Grade 3 or 4 stomatitis should have their dose decreased to 60mg/m².

Patients Treated with TAXOTERE in AC-TH or TCH

Patients who received AC-TH or TCH adjuvant therapy for operable breast cancer whose tumours overexpress HER2 and who experience an episode of febrile neutropenia or infection should receive prophylactic G-CSF in all subsequent cycles. For a second episode of febrile neutropenia or infection, patients should continue prophylactic G-CSF, and TAXOTERE will be reduced from 100 mg/m² to 75 mg/m² (in the AC-TH regimen); TAXOTERE will be reduced from 75 mg/m² to 60 mg/m² (in the TCH regimen).

However, in clinical practice neutropenia could occur in cycle 1. Thus, G-CSF should be used in consideration of the neutropenic risk of the patient and current recommendations. Depending on the treatment regimen, patients who experience Grade 3 or 4 stomatitis should have their dose decreased from 100 mg/m² to 75 mg/m² (in the AC-TH regimen) or from 75 mg/m² to 60 mg/m² (in the TCH regimen).

Patients Treated with TAXOTERE in Combination with Cisplatin and Fluorouracil in Head and Neck cancer

Patients treated with TAXOTERE in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil must receive antiemetics and appropriate hydration according to current institutional guidelines. G-CSF should be administered to mitigate the risk of complicated neutropenia.

If an episode of febrile neutropenia, prolonged neutropenia or neutropenic infection occurs despite G-CSF use, the TAXOTERE dose should be reduced from 75 to 60 mg/m². If subsequent episodes of complicated neutropenia occur the TAXOTERE dose should be reduced from 60 to 45 mg/m².

In case of Grade 4 thrombocytopenia the TAXOTERE dose should be reduced from 75 to 60 mg/m². Patients should not be retreated with subsequent cycles of TAXOTERE until neutrophils recover to a level >1500 cells/mm³ and platelets recover to a level > 100 000 cells/m³. Discontinue treatment if these toxicities persist.

For cisplatin and fluorouracil dosage and administration, see the relevant Product Information leaflet.

Recommended Dose Modifications for Toxicities in Patients Treated with TAXOTERE in Combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil

Toxicity	Dosage adjustment
Diarrhoea grade 3	1st episode: reduce fluorouracil (FU) dose by 20% 2nd episode: then reduce TAXOTERE dose by 20%
Diarrhoea grade 4	1st episode: reduce TAXOTERE and fluorouracil (FU) doses by 20% 2nd episode: discontinue treatment
Stomatitis/mucositis grade 3	1st episode: reduce fluorouracil (FU) dose by 20% 2nd episode: stop fluorouracil (FU) only, at all subsequent cycles 3rd episode: reduce TAXOTERE dose by 20%
Stomatitis/mucositis grade 4	1st episode: stop fluorouracil (FU) only, at all subsequent cycles 2nd episode: reduce TAXOTERE dose by 20%

Special Populations

Patients with Hepatic Impairment

In Patients Treated at 75mg/m²

For those patients with increased serum bilirubin and/or values >3.5 times the ULN for ALT and AST and >6 times the ULN for alkaline phosphatase, no dose-reduction can be recommended and docetaxel should not be used unless strictly indicated.

In Patients Treated at 100mg/m²

Based on the pharmacokinetic data, in patients who have both elevations of transaminase values [ALT and/or AST greater than 1.5 times the upper limit of normal range (ULN)] and increases in alkaline phosphatase greater than 2.5 times the ULN, the recommended dose of docetaxel is 75mg/m² (see **Pharmacokinetics**). For those patients with increased serum bilirubin and/or values >3.5 times the ULN for ALT and AST and >6 times the ULN for alkaline phosphatase, no dose-reduction can be recommended and docetaxel should not be used unless strictly indicated.

Children

The safety and effectiveness of TAXOTERE in children have not been established.

Elderly

Based on the population pharmacokinetics, there are no special instructions for the use in elderly. For capecitabine dosage reduction when combined with TAXOTERE, see capecitabine Product Information.

Preparation for the Intravenous Administration

Note: Do not mix the reconstituted two vial formulation (injection concentrate and diluent) with the single vial formulation, either before or after preparation of the infusion solution.

Taxotere is for single use in one patient only. Discard any unused residue.

TAXOTERE 20mg/1mL Concentrate Vial

TAXOTERE 20mg concentrate vial contains 20mg of docetaxel per 1.0mL in 50/50 (v/v) polysorbate 80/absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 80mg/4mL Concentrate Vial

TAXOTERE 80mg concentrate vial contains 80mg of docetaxel per 4.0mL in 50/50 (v/v) polysorbate 80/ absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 160mg/8mL Concentrate Vial

TAXOTERE 160mg concentrate vial contains 160mg of docetaxel per 8.0mL in 50/50 (v/v) polysorbate 80/ absolute ethanol.

Preparation and Storage of the Infusion Solution

More than one concentrate vial may be necessary to obtain the required dose for the patient.

Based on required dose for patient, using a 21 gauge needle, aseptically withdraw the required volume of Taxotere concentrate solution (20mg/mL) from the appropriate number of concentrate vials using a single calibrated syringe fitted with a needle [For example a dose of 140mg docetaxel would require 7ml of Taxotere concentrate solution]. Inject the required concentrate volume via a single injection (one shot) into a 250mL infusion bag or bottle containing either 5% glucose solution or 0.9% sodium chloride solution. If a dose greater than 200mg of docetaxel is required, use a larger volume of the infusion vehicle so that a concentration of 0.74mg/mL docetaxel is not exceeded. Mix the infusion bag or bottle manually using a rocking motion.

Note: The one shot technique reduces the number of needle insertions into the infusion bag hence minimising the risk of crystallisation.

Although chemical and physical stability of the diluted Taxotere solution for infusion prepared as recommended in 0.9% sodium chloride and 5% glucose solution in polyolefin bags and in bottles has been demonstrated for up to 6 hours including the 1 hour infusion (up to 4 hours in other infusion bags) at room temperature and normal lighting conditions, and for up to 24 hours when stored between 2 - 8°C, the product contains no antimicrobial preservative. To reduce the risk of microbial contamination and crystallisation of docetaxel, it is recommended that infusion be commenced as soon as practicable after preparation of the infusion solution. If storage is necessary hold between 2 - 8°C for not more than 24 hours (including the time to allow the infusion solution to return to room temperature before infusion).

Docetaxel infusion solution is supersaturated, therefore may crystallise over time. If crystals appear, the solution must no longer be used and shall be discarded.

Any residue after infusion should be discarded. Any solutions which are discoloured, hazy or contain visible particulate matter should not be used.

Disposal

All materials that have been utilised for dilution and administration should be disposed of according to standard procedures.

OVERDOSAGE

In case of overdosage, the patient should be kept in a specialised unit and vital functions closely monitored. There is no known antidote for TAXOTERE overdosage. The primary anticipated complications of overdosage would consist of bone marrow suppression, peripheral neurotoxicity and mucositis. Patients should receive therapeutic G-CSF as soon as possible after discovery of overdose. Other appropriate symptomatic measures should be taken, as needed.

There were two reports of overdose. One patient received 150mg/m² and the other received 200mg/m² of TAXOTERE as a one hour infusion. They both recovered after experiencing severe neutropenia, mild asthenia, cutaneous reactions and mild paraesthesia.

For information on the management of overdose, contact the Poison Information Centre on 131126 (Australia) or the New Zealand National Poisons Information Centre on 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766.

PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS

TAXOTERE concentrate for infusion is supplied in single-dose vials as a sterile pyrogen-free non-aqueous pale yellow to brownish-yellow solution. The following strengths are available:

TAXOTERE 20mg/1mL

Each blister carton contains one single-dose vial of TAXOTERE (docetaxel) concentrate solution for infusion.

In each Taxotere 20 mg concentrate solution for infusion vial, the concentrate is containing 20mg of docetaxel per 1.0mL in 50/50 (v/v) polysorbate 80/absolute ethanol. Each vial contains approximately 395 mg of absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 20mg/1mL vial is a 7mL clear glass Type I vial with a green aluminium cap and plastic lid.

An infusion bag with 200 mg docetaxel dose also contains 3.95g of absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 80mg/4mL

Each blister carton contains one single-dose vial of TAXOTERE (docetaxel) concentrate solution for infusion.

PRODUCT INFORMATION
Taxotere (1-Vial) - docetaxel

In each Taxotere 80 mg concentrate solution for infusion vial, the concentrate is containing 80mg of docetaxel per 4.0mL in 50/50 (v/v) polysorbate 80/absolute ethanol. Each vial contains approximately 1.58 g of absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 80mg/4mL vial is a 7mL clear glass Type I vial with a magenta aluminium cap and plastic lid.

An infusion bag with 200mg docetaxel dose also contains 3.95g of absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 160mg/8mL*

Each blister carton contains one single-dose vial of TAXOTERE (docetaxel) concentrate solution for infusion.

In each Taxotere 160mg concentrate solution for infusion vial, the concentrate is containing 160mg of docetaxel per 8.0 ml in 50/50 (v/v) polysorbate 80/absolute ethanol. Each vial contains approximately 3.16g of absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 160mg/8ml vial is a 15ml clear glass Type 1 vial with a blue aluminium cap and plastic lid.

An infusion bag with 200mg docetaxel dose also contains 3.95g of absolute ethanol.

TAXOTERE 20mg and 80mg and 160mg: store below 25°C and protect from light.

* Presentation currently not-marketed

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SPONSOR

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AUSTRALIA

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POISON SCHEDULE OF THE MEDICINE

Schedule 4 (Prescription Medicine)

DATE OF FIRST INCLUSION IN THE ARTG

18 January 2012

PRODUCT INFORMATION
Taxotere (1-Vial) - docetaxel

DATE OF MOST RECENT AMENDMENT

9 November 2017