

## **Docetaxel-related side effects and their management.**

Baker J, Ajani J, Scotté F, et al. *Eur J Oncol Nurs.* 2008; **12(3)**:253-268.

Study overview: Docetaxel is an effective cytotoxic treatment against several malignancies, but has side effects that can lead to the interruption of treatment or dose reduction. This systematic literature review investigated the available information on common side effects associated with most docetaxel regimens, with the aim of providing guidelines on their prevention and management. The literature search covered PubMed from January 2002 to October 2007, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) abstracts from 2006 and 2007, and the Cochrane database. Of 103 articles that discussed the side effects of treatment with docetaxel, only 14 provided detailed guidance on their management.

Key findings: Febrile neutropenia (FN), hypersensitivity, fluid retention and nail changes were identified as side effects of docetaxel treatment. Recommendations for toxicity management focused on FN, as this is the most clinically relevant side effect.

Conclusions: The authors found strong scientific support for the use of colony-stimulating factor in the prevention of FN, but highlighted the need for models to predict which patients are at highest risk. Other, milder docetaxel-related side effects can generally be managed by prophylactic and supportive care measures. The authors concluded that docetaxel is generally well tolerated with predictable side effects that can be managed.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18501674?dopt=Citation>