Docetaxel and Gemcitabine

Patient Education Sheets
Understanding Your Cancer Treatment

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is used for a type of bladder cancer called non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC).
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Docetaxel (DOH-seh-TAK-sil): Taxotere (TAK-soh-teer)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by preventing cancer cells from properly dividing and creating new cells.	Injection through a catheter directly into your bladder (intravesicular).
Gemcitabine (jem-SY-tuh-been): Gemzar (JEM-zar)	Stops cancer cells from making the instructions they need to grow and multiply, causing the cells to die.	Injection through a catheter directly into your bladder (intravesicular).

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Treatment typically has 2 parts: induction and maintenance.

Induction

- Docetaxel is given once a week for 6 weeks.
- Gemcitabine is given once a week for 6 weeks.

Treatment Name	Induction: Week 1 of Treatment							Week 2
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 1
Docetaxel	✓							✓
Gemcitabine	✓							✓

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Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

Maintenance

- Docetaxel is given once a month for up to 24 months.
- Gemcitabine is given once a month for up to 24 months.

Treatment Name	Maintenance: Month of Treatment							Next Month
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	…	Day 28	Day 1
Docetaxel	✓							✓
Gemcitabine	✓							✓

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, treatment appointments, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss an appointment, call your care team as soon as possible to reschedule it.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting		
Other		

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Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Kidney Problems	Description: Treatment can cause kidney problems, including damage to the kidneys and decreased kidney function. Your care team will monitor your kidney function during treatment. Recommendations: • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine • Swelling of your ankles • Loss of appetite
Bladder Problems and Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)	Description: Treatment can irritate the bladder lining and may also increase your chance of getting a UTI. This may cause burning with urination (dysuria), blood in the urine (hematuria), frequent urination, strong urges to urinate, cloudy or foul-smelling urine, lower stomach (abdominal) discomfort, or fever. Recommendations: • Drink plenty of fluids (unless your care team says otherwise) to help flush the bladder. • Avoid caffeine, alcohol, and spicy foods if they make symptoms worse. • Urinate gently and do not hold urine for long periods. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicine to help with bladder problems. • Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. • Keep any catheter site clean and dry. Follow all instructions provided by your care team. Talk to your care team if you have: • Blood in your urine or blood clots • Red-tinged urine lasting more than 24 hours after treatment • Severe or worsening pain when urinating • Inability to urinate or very little urine output • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher, chills, or signs of infection • Fainting, dizziness, or very heavy bleeding • Cloudy or foul-smelling urine • Frequent urination

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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Hole or Tear in Bladder (Perforated Bladder)	A perforated bladder can allow gemcitabine to leak outside the bladder. This can be serious and needs medical attention right away. • Severe pain in your lower stomach area (abdomen) or pelvis • Blood in your urine • Pain when urinating • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills • You cannot urinate or are urinating less than usual

Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.

Intimacy, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body.** However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
  - If you are able to become pregnant:
    - Your care team will verify your pregnancy status before treatment.
    - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 6 months after your last dose of gemcitabine.
    - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
  - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment and for 3 months after your last dose of gemcitabine.
- **Do not breastfeed** during treatment and for 1 week after your last dose of gemcitabine.

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Handling Body Fluids and Waste

Some drugs you receive may stay in your urine for many days after treatment. Because many cancer drugs are toxic, your body waste may also be dangerous to touch. To help protect yourself, your loved ones, and the environment, **follow these instructions** for at least **48 hours** after each dose of **gemcitabine** and for at least **3 days** after each dose of **docetaxel**:

- People who are pregnant should avoid touching anything that may be soiled with body fluids from the patient.
- You can use your usual toilet. Always close the lid and flush to discard all waste. If you have a low-flow toilet, flush twice.
- If the toilet or seat is soiled with urine, stool, or vomit, clean the surface after each use before others use it.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using the toilet.
- If you need a bedpan, inform your caregiver so they can wear gloves and assist with cleanup. Wash the bedpan with soap and water daily.
- If you cannot control your bladder or bowels, use a disposable pad with a plastic back, a diaper, or a sheet to absorb waste.
- Wash any skin exposed to body waste with soap and water.
- Wash soiled linens or clothing separately from other laundry. If you don't have a washer, place them in a plastic bag until they can be washed.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after touching soiled linens or clothing.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take**.
  This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
  Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Notes

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