COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT: Paclitaxel (Taxol®)

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
- Clear fluid with a slight haze

HOW IS IT GIVEN?
- Injected into a vein

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS?
- Lowering of the white blood cell counts, which may increase your risk for infection.
- Lowering of the platelet count which may result in easy bruising or bleeding.
- Numbness, tingling, and pain in fingers or toes.
- Complete hair loss usually occurs 14-21 days after the first treatment and often affects all body hair. Many patients experience re-growth of hair after 5-7 treatments have been given.

WHAT ARE THE LEAST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS?
- Discomfort at the site of injection
- Slowing of heart rate or pulse
- Irregular pulse
- Nausea and vomiting usually controlled with anti-nausea medications
- Taste changes
- Mouth sores
- Diarrhea
- Tiredness and weakness
- Headaches
- Pain in muscle and joints
- Abnormal kidney or liver function
- Seizures
- Changes in texture of nails

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
- Paclitaxel can cause allergic reactions. The symptoms of these reactions may include flushing of the skin, hives, itchy skin rash, difficulty breathing and/or wheezing. Paclitaxel may cause allergic reactions. You will take anti-allergy medicines before receiving paclitaxel.