

# **TAXOTERE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT**

Fighting breast cancer is a very emotional battle for women. Doctors are trying to save the lives of women by trying new and innovative methods and drugs. One drug that has been used against breast cancer is a chemotherapy drug called Taxotere.

As with other drugs used to fight cancer, chemotherapy causes some side effects. And Taxotere is no different. One such side effect was the loss of hair.

Medical professionals reassured women that the hair loss was temporary. But the hair loss linked to Taxotere may be permanent and irreversible. Women who have battled breast cancer are discovering that using Taxotere may have significantly affected their quality of life because of their hair loss.

It is believed that more than an estimated three-quarters of breast cancer patients have used Taxotere.

## Taxotere

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Taxotere is an anticancer chemotherapy drug, and its generic name is docetaxel. In addition to breast cancer, it is also used to fight non-small cell lung cancer, advanced stomach cancer, head and neck cancer, and metastatic cancer. Since there is no pill form available, Taxotere is given intravenously.

Some of Taxotere's informational materials say side effects are almost always reversible, and that they will go away after treatment is complete. But Taxotere is still linked to permanent hair loss, also known as alopecia or persistent alopecia.

Sanofi-Aventis, the company that manufactures Taxotere, failed to warn patients and medical professionals about the risk of permanent hair loss. Its internal studies claimed there was only a 10 percent chance that Taxotere patients would have permanent hair loss. The company updated warning labels in Canada and Europe, but failed to do the same in the United States until 2015.

## FDA and Taxotere

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has sent letters to the manufacturer of Taxotere, urging it to stop distributing some promotional materials. But, since the loss of hair does not pose a serious threat to the public, the FDA will likely never issue a warning about Taxotere and its link to alopecia.

## Do You Need an Attorney?

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If you or someone you know used Taxotere and suffered the loss of hair, he or she should consider contacting an attorney.

At Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., we pride ourselves on being honest and straightforward with our clients and potential clients. It doesn't benefit anyone to pursue litigation when a case isn't strong.

When a manufacturer puts an inferior product on the market, it should be held responsible. And, if that product was not tested adequately, the manufacturer should also be held responsible. It's also very important to secure evidence that the manufacturers knew about the product's serious risks but did not share the information with the public or warn consumers.

The single best way to know if you need an attorney is to speak with one. Share the details of your case, bring any evidence you have, and simply tell your story. A lawyer from Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., will respond to the sensitive story with the concern and compassion that you are entitled to receive. Our attorneys will examine your possible case, answer your questions, and let you know your legal options.

## Getting Compensation for Taxotere

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Why should you file a lawsuit if Taxotere was used? A serious diagnosis and medical issue can result in enormous losses, both financial and otherwise. If someone else, such as a manufacturer, is responsible for your health condition, it is also responsible for the costs your health condition incurs.

Specifically, you may be entitled to the following types of damages if you or a member of your family has been harmed by Taxotere:

- **Economic damages.** These damages include the actual money lost by defective products. Economic damages include medical costs, lost wages, lost future income, and lost earning power.
- **Non-economic damages.** A serious medical condition caused by a defective product can greatly affect your life, your abilities, and your happiness. A liable manufacturer may owe you compensation for any pain and suffering, mental anguish, permanent disabilities, loss of companionship, loss of consortium, or lowered quality of life.

- **Punitive damages.** If a company has been grossly negligent or if it is determined that the company has committed an egregious wrong, it may be asked to pay its victims more money as a punishment and as a deterrent. The amount received for punitive damages varies widely.

In short, damages are meant to accomplish two major goals: compensate the victims and their families for what they have lost, and to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future. By filing a lawsuit, you are not only making sure that you receive what you are lawfully owed, you are also making sure that others don't suffer in the way that you have.

## What Should You Do If You Have Been Harmed by Taxotere?

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When you suffer an injury in a traffic accident that is someone else's fault, the steps you take to get better and pursue compensation are relatively straightforward. If you believe that you have been harmed by a potentially defective product, the path to justice can be much less clear.

While all harmful products are different, there are a few things that you should do if you believe you are the victim of a harmful product:

- **Get the medical assistance that you need.** Nothing is more important than your health. If you believe a product is causing your health problems, illness, or adverse events, you should report your symptoms to a medical professional immediately and voice your concern that your health condition may be tied to that product. Not only will getting medical assistance considerably improve your chances of recovery and remission, it will also document your health issues in the event that you would like to file a lawsuit.
- **Don't hesitate to get a second opinion.** We can't state this enough: Your health is the most precious thing that you have. If your doctor isn't convinced that the product is affecting your health, or if your doctor isn't taking your health concerns seriously, seek a second opinion.
- **Be compliant.** It is difficult to get compensation for illnesses and medical costs if you don't follow treatment plans and doctors' orders. It's also difficult to get well if you aren't listening to your treating medical professionals.
- **Keep notes and records.** Take notes when you visit the doctor. Get copies of your medical records. Keep a diary of symptoms, illnesses, and health observations. Keep track of medical expenses and other monetary losses related to your harmful product. All of the information you collect could be important to your possible lawsuit.

- **Talk to an attorney—or two—about your case.** Far too many harmful product victims second-guess themselves or delay telling their stories. They do not realize that many medical attorneys offer free, private consultations, or that a knowledgeable lawyer can analyze the evidence in their case and explain their legal options.

## Hiring An Attorney? Ten Questions to Ask During Your Consultation

Even if you have decided that you want to learn more about your possible case, it can be difficult to know where to turn, whom to trust, and who will be your optimal partner and advocate. It is important to understand that not all attorneys have specific experience with regard to products like Taxotere. In addition, it is important to understand that different attorneys offer different perspectives—and at different costs. We've listed ten questions that you should ask potential lawyers before agreeing to work with them on your case.

- Do you have experience handling defective product cases, especially products like Taxotere?
- How do you conduct medical research related to cases like mine?
- Do you utilize medical experts? If so, what are their credentials?
- What do you believe are the most important aspects of a defective product lawsuit?
- Can you share past defective product case results with me?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of my case?
- What are my legal rights and what are my options for action?
- Who in your office will handle my case? How will I contact you during my case?
- What are your feelings on settling as opposed to going to court?
- How do you bill your clients? What can I expect to pay if I win? What can I expect to pay if I lose?

Don't forget: It's not just experience and expertise that matter. In some cases, a lawyer's personality simply won't complement yours, or you may simply not work well with certain attorneys. If you don't feel comfortable with the attorney you are speaking with, or if you don't feel confident about partnering with him or her, consider talking to someone else before making your decision.

## How Hupy and Abraham, S.C., Can Help

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At Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., we are dedicated to helping those who have been harmed by defective products—and we are committed to seeking justice for these victims and their families. We offer confidential, complimentary case evaluations to anyone who has been affected by a dangerous product. Take the first step by contacting us today and we will take care of the rest.

There are five ways of contacting us today:

- Call us toll-free at 1-800-800-5678.
- Visit our website at [www.hupy.com](http://www.hupy.com).
- Fill out the electronic quick-contact form located on our website.
- Chat in real time with a real person by using the live chat option on our website.
- Stop by one of our offices, with 11 different locations in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

## About Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C.

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Founded in 1969 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, personal injury law firm Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., has a proven record of success with large settlements in serious cases, collecting over a billion dollars for more than 70,000 satisfied clients. The firm has a long-established reputation of providing sound legal representation to accident victims, securing fair compensation for its clients and giving back to the community.

With 11 offices located in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, the law firm handles personal injury cases including car accidents, motorcycle accidents, wrongful death, pharmaceutical and medical device class actions, and nursing home neglect and abuse cases.

The firm's 24 experienced attorneys are committed to going above and beyond the call of duty for their clients by tirelessly representing them to the best of their ability while being involved in the local community—from raising funds for local charities to participating in safety and accident prevention initiatives. In the past three years, the firm donated more than \$500,000 to more than 250 worthwhile causes.

Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C. has received top ratings from a number of national professional organizations for many years and was voted Best Personal Injury Lawyers in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 and voted Best Personal Injury Law Firm in 2016, 2014, 2013 and 2012 in another popular poll, and named Best Law Firm in the

***Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's*** Top Choice Award in 2015 and 2016. In 2015, the firm was named a Webby Award Honoree in the Best Law Website Category and was honored at the Legal Marketing Association's "Your Honor Awards" for Best Website: Reboot.