



What is Taxotere?

A synthetic chemotherapy drug manufactured by the French company Sanofi-Aventis. It is used to treat the majority of breast cancer cases in the United States.

How does it work?

Taxotere is a mitotic inhibitor which means it prevents cancer cells from dividing and thus stops the cancer from spreading. However, Taxotere is significantly more potent, but not more effective, than Taxol, another Taxane drug. Taxol is actually proven to be more effective, and is better tolerated than Taxotere.

The Effects

Taxotere, unlike Taxol, causes **permanent** alopecia. This means that hair may not grow back, and if it does, it is inconsistent and patchy. The drug company, Sanofi-Aventis, **did not** issue a warning to doctors or patients about the permanent hair loss until January 2016, even though they have known about this side-effect for over 10 years. Why? The company knew it would adversely affect their market share!

