

All Cases Involving Breast Cancer Drug Taxotere Designated By Court As Multicounty Litigation

After 350 filed suits against breast cancer drug Taxotere, the New Jersey Supreme Court has designated all cases involved as multicounty litigation.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY,
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There have been over 350 suits over alleged [side effects](#) of taking Taxotere, a common breast cancer drug. The New Jersey Supreme Court has designated all cases involved as multicounty litigation.

Superior Court Judge James Hyland has been assigned centralized case management to the group in Middlesex County. The order was approved on August 17, 2018, by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner.



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The order applies to any state court suits relating to Taxotere against Sanofi-Aventis U.S., Accord Healthcare, Sandoz, Hospira Worldwide, Pfizer, Actavis and Sun Pharmaceuticals.

A large number of cases involving Taxotere were already in the earliest stages of litigation before Hyland. The multicounty litigation allows the plaintiffs to better coordinate with multidistrict litigation in federal court.

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Alvin F de Levie, Esq.

There is no generic version of Taxotere sold at pharmacies. However, multiple manufacturers can sell the drug because of regulatory approval from the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act §505(b). This act allows manufacturers to rely on studies conducted by outside parties and not obtain a right of reference.

Taxotere was approved by the FDA in 1996 for the treatment of breast cancer. The label did indicate that using the drug could cause temporary hair loss. However, it also inaccurately stated that after stopping the medication, hair would grow back.

Medical malpractice lawyer Alvin F. de Levie commented on the case saying, “Manufacturers of

any defective drug that causes detrimental side effects to users should without a doubt be held accountable.”

After a case in 2015, the defendant Sanofi Aventis changed the labeling to say that permanent hair loss has been recorded as a side effect. It was argued in court documents that it was known years prior that permanent hair loss was a significantly reported side effect of Taxotere.

A study showed between 1999 and 2003 that of 1,060 users 9.2 percent had hair loss for ten years or longer. Also, an oncologist from Denver, Scot Sedlacek, presented a study that showed 6.3 percent of subjects had poor hair regrowth after the drug.

The plaintiffs presented studies during the multiple court cases associated with Taxotere that showed how women undergoing breast cancer treatment consider hair loss as one of the most traumatic experiences during treatment. 8 percent of women even abstain from treatment altogether if hair loss is a side effect.

“Taxotere has clearly caused improperly disclosed side effects to too many women undergoing breast cancer treatment,” said de Levie, “Breast cancer is traumatizing enough for any woman to go through and for this treatment to add on even more suffering undisclosed is something that should not be allowed to continue.”

Anna Robinson, a spokeswoman for Sanofi-Aventis, released a statement saying, “We fully anticipated and expected this consolidation in New Jersey and have the utmost confidence in the New Jersey judiciary that this litigation will be managed fairly.”

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