

# The Infostab/Stabilis website: a tool for oncology pharmacists

The stability and compatibility of anticancer drugs is an important preoccupation for oncology pharmacists involved in the preparation of these drugs.

## Introduction

The preparation of injectable anticancer drugs in the Centralized Intravenous Additive Service is one of the main responsibilities of the oncology pharmacist. To be able to prepare solutions in advance, he has to know the characteristics of each drug to determine the best storage conditions, and the compatibility of drugs with different containers and solvents. The oncology pharmacist also has to answer nurses' questions about the compatibility of drugs to be administered intravenously to patients.



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**Stabilis** contains more than 380 monographs of injectable drugs with 65 anticancer drugs. It provides information about the stability in solutions and admixtures, incompatibilities and the factors affecting stability such as the solvent, the container, the temperature, the pH, etc. (see Figure 1).

A **three-monthly newsletter** is published. It contains information about new articles selected for **Stabilis** during the last three months, any changes to the database (new functions), new monographs, new pictograms, the posters concerning the stability of injectable drugs presented during recent congresses mainly in Europe, a list of new documents that can be downloaded on the website and visitor statistics by month and by language.

The information provided by pharmaceutical companies is often scanty and irrelevant to daily practice. The goal of this article is to present the usefulness of the Infostab website in resolving issues of the stability and compatibility of anticancer drugs. This tool was presented at the ESOP/NZW meeting in Hamburg, Germany, in January 2009.

## What is Infostab?

Infostab is a French non-profit association dedicated to providing information about the stability and compatibility of injectable drugs. Its website opened in November 2006. Its main function is to host the free **European Stabilis database**. An original feature of the database is the use of pictograms as a universal language, although the text has been translated into all European languages.

**Stabilis** contains also a **search function for incompatibilities** between numerous molecules. The user can enter their scientific or commercial names and **Stabilis** will verify all the known incompatibilities between these molecules.

**Summary lists** by theme are available: stability in various containers, drugs affected by light, incompatibility in various solvents, etc.

**Stabilis** is a tool for the daily practice of European oncology pharmacists. Currently, the statistics shows that the site is mainly used for drugs prescribed in oncology with 18 anticancer drugs amongst the first 20 consulted monographs. This represents more than 50% of the consultations.

Figure 1: Paclitaxel stability in solution

Stability in solutions : Paclitaxel						
Container	Stability	Concentration	Temperature	Light	Duration	Reference
		1,2 mg/ml	30°C		4	173
		0,3 mg/ml	2-8°C		13	2172
		0,3 mg/ml	25°C		3	2172
		1,2 mg/ml	2-8°C		8	2172
		1,2 mg/ml	25°C		5	2172
		0,4 & 1,2 mg/ml	20°C-25°C		5	1865
		0,3 mg/ml	2-8°C		20	2172

For example: line 5, Paclitaxel solutions stored in **glass vials** diluted in **0.9% sodium chloride** (green triangle) at a concentration of 1.2 mg/mL at 25°C and **protected from light** are stable for **5 days**. The information comes from reference 2172.

## Other functions of the Infostab website

The website provides news twice a week on Tuesday and Friday with stability studies, methods of assessing stability, congress announcements, etc. Posters and publications can be downloaded and there are links to the websites of other databases and guidelines.

So, add this website address to your favourites: [www.infostab.com](http://www.infostab.com) !

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