

## **For the Patient: CNBEV**

**Other Names:** therapy of relapsed malignant brain tumours using bevacizumab with or without etoposide or lomustine

**CN** = Central Nervous System  
**BEV** = BEVacizumab

### **ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

#### **What are these drugs used for?**

- Bevacizumab, with or without etoposide or lomustine, is given to treat certain cancers of the brain or central nervous system.

#### **How do these drugs work?**

- Bevacizumab is a monoclonal antibody, which is a protein that targets a specific growth factor of certain cancer cells in order to arrest the growth of the tumour. Etoposide and lomustine work by interfering with dividing cells and preventing an increase in the number of cancer cells.

### **INTENDED BENEFITS**

- This therapy is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay the onset of new symptoms.
- It may take a number of treatments before your doctor can judge whether or not this treatment is helping.

### **TREATMENT SUMMARY**

#### **How are these drugs given?**

- Bevacizumab is given directly into the vein (IV). It will be given to you at the clinic by a chemotherapy nurse. Each treatment will take **about 1 hour**. Your first treatment will probably take longer, as the nurse will review information on the chemotherapy drug with you.

The treatment is repeated every 2 or 3 weeks. This 2-week or 3-week period of time is called a “cycle”.

The calendar below shows how the medication is given each 2 week cycle.

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
	1	
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → bevacizumab IV x 1 day (new cycle)

The calendar below shows how the medication is given each 3 week cycle.

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
	1	
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment
		Week 4 → bevacizumab IV x 1 day (new cycle)

The cycles are repeated as long as you are benefiting from treatment and not having too many side effects.

**If etoposide is part of your treatment:**

- Etoposide is a capsule taken by mouth once a day on Days 1 to 21 and repeated every 28 days
- You will be given the capsules to take at home

**If lomustine is part of your treatment:**

- Lomustine is a capsule taken by mouth at bedtime on Day 1 only, and repeated every 6 weeks
- You will be given the capsules to take at home

**What will happen when I get my drug(s)?**

- Your **blood pressure** will be checked by a nurse and a **urine test** will be done before each treatment. For the first three cycles, your blood pressure will be checked both before and after each treatment. The dose and timing of your therapy may be changed based on your blood pressure, urine test and/or other side effects.
- A CT scan or MRI is done every second cycle
- **If etoposide or lomustine are part of you treatment:**
- Blood tests are done on or before Day 1 of each cycle or oral medication (plus on Day 28 if on lomustine).
- The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on your blood counts and/or other side effects.

## **SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

- Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment.
- Please refer to the patient information handout titled “**For the Patient: bevacizumab**” for a complete list of possible side effects and their management. If you have not received a copy, please ask a nurse or pharmacist. It is also located on the BC [Cancer](#) website at <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/DrugIndexPt/bevacizumab.htm>.
- If you are also taking etoposide, please refer to the patient information handout titled “**For the Patient: Etoposide Capsules**” for a complete list of possible side effects and their management.
- If you are also taking lomustine, please refer to the patient information handout titled “**For the Patient: Lomustine Capsules**” for a complete list of possible side effects and their management  
These handouts are also located on the BC [Cancer](#) website at <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/cancer-drug-manual/drug-index>

### **Medication interactions**

Some drugs may interact with bevacizumab and you may need extra blood tests or your doses may need to be changed. Please refer to “**For the Patient: bevacizumab**” and if on etoposide see also “**For the Patient: etoposide**” and if on lomustine, see also “**For the Patient; lomustine**”

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact:**

\_\_\_\_\_ at telephone number \_\_\_\_\_