



BC Cancer Agency

Systemic Therapy Update

Volume 7, Number 2

for health professionals who care for cancer patients February 2004
Website access at <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/STUpdate/>

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FAX request form and IN TOUCH phone list are provided if additional information is needed.

Article of the Month

“**Why should oncology nurses be interested in genetics?**” by Jean Jenkins and Agnes Masny in [Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing](#). September/October 2003, 7(5), pp. 576-580.

This brief article describes the many ways in which the evolving field of genetics impacts the role of the oncology nurse. Advances in this area will continue to have a huge impact on all phases of the cancer continuum and will influence nurses' work in the areas of patient teaching, counselling, assisting patients with decision making, and treatment administration. A quick quiz will increase your awareness of how much genetics is already part of *your* nursing practice.

We recommend this article as reading in preparation for several presentations at the *Systemic Nurses' Clinical Update 2004*.

Judy Oliver
Education Resource Nurse
BC Cancer Agency

PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

Policy on Extravasation of Chemotherapy The BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policy on the Prevention and Management of Extravasation of Chemotherapy (Policy III-20) has been revised to re-introduce the inclusion of hyaluronidase (Wydase®, Hyalase®) in the management of vinca alkaloids extravasation (see

Drug Update in this issue). Two forms must be completed. The completed Health Canada Special Access Request (SAR) Form should be faxed to Health Canada. The Canadian Order Form for CP Pharmaceuticals' – Hyalase can be obtained from the company (Tracy.Davies@cppharma.co.uk, tel: +44(0)1978 661261, fax: +44(0)1978 660130).

The following is an example of the information needed for the Health Canada SAR form:

SECTION A: PRACTITIONER AND SHIPPING INFORMATION	
Practitioner's Name: Physician's Name	Tel #: Pharmacy Contact #
Hospital: Hospital Pharmacy	Fax#: Pharmacy Fax #
Address: (shipping address only please) Hospital Address	
SEND PRODUCT C/O: Hospital pharmacy	
Contact: (if other than Practitioner) Pharmacist's Name	

SECTION B: DRUG PRODUCT AND MANUFACTURER INFORMATION	
Trade Name: Hyalase	Other Name: hyaluronidase
Manufacturer: CP Pharmaceuticals	PO#: Pharmacy PO #
Route of Administration: ORAL <input type="checkbox"/> IV <input type="checkbox"/> IM <input type="checkbox"/> TOPICAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: S.C.	
Dosage Form: TAB <input type="checkbox"/> CAP <input type="checkbox"/> LIQUID POWDER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREAM <input type="checkbox"/> OINTMENT <input type="checkbox"/> PATCH <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	

SECTION C: PATIENT INFORMATION							
Patient Initials (e.g. A.B.C.)	DOB (DD/MM/YY)	Sex	Serious Life Threatening Indication	New or Repeat Patient	Dosage and Duration (e.g. #mg bid x #days)	Strength (e.g. #mg)	Quantity (e.g. ##tabs)
Future Use		M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	Treatment of extravasation of cytotoxic drugs	N <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/>			10 x 1 mL
		M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>		N <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/>			
Please specify the exact amount of product being requested. A maximum quantity equivalent to a six-month supply will be considered for drugs used for chronic indications. (e.g., number of tabs, vials, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/>							TOTAL: 10 ML

SECTION D: CLINICAL RATIONALE	
1. When will the drug be administered? Immediately <input type="checkbox"/> 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/> 5 days <input type="checkbox"/> or Specific Date: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Future Use X	(In circumstances where a drug is indicated for emergency or urgent use, the SAP will consider requests for access to a supply of a drug in anticipation of future use)
2. Why is this drug the best choice for your patient(s)? Include specific information on other therapies considered, ruled out and/or failed to achieve an adequate response.	
Treatment of extravasation of vinca alkaloids	
3. What sources of information/data support your decision to prescribe the drug?	
Khan MS, Holmes JD. Reducing the morbidity from extravasation injuries. Annals of Plastic Surgery. 48(6): 628-32; discussion 632, 2002 Jun.	

The use of DMSO as an antidote of doxorubicin is currently under review. Questions about its use or to report any adverse events due to DMSO should be directed to the Nursing Education phone line at (604) 877-6000 local 2638.

BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policies are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols/Policies/>) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Policies and Procedures.

BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The current Benefit Drug List, Class II forms and Undesignated Indication Application forms are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols/Forms/>) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Frequently Used Forms.

LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS

The **INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries** is revised monthly (include tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version). Protocol codes for treatments requiring “Undesignated Indication” approval are prefixed with the letter U.

- **GIAVCAP** revised (eligibility revised): Palliative therapy of advanced colorectal cancer using capecitabine
- **GIFOLFIRI** revised (administration guidelines on irinotecan and leucovorin): Palliative combination chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer using irinotecan, fluorouracil and folinic acid (leucovorin)
- **GIFUC** (number of cycles expanded): Palliative chemotherapy for upper gastrointestinal tract cancer (gastric, esophageal, gall bladder carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma) using infusional fluorouracil and cisplatin
- **LYPALL** revised (vincristine dilution clarified): Lymphoma palliative chemotherapy
- **LYTHALID** revised (dosing schedule clarified): Therapy of multiple myeloma using thalidomide
- **UMYBORTEZ** new: Treatment of multiple myeloma with bortezomib (Special Access Programme approval required)

Protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols/>) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols.

CANCER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Cancer Management Guidelines are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines/>) under Health Professionals Info, Cancer Management Guidelines.

PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE

Pre-printed orders should always be checked with the most current BC Cancer Agency protocol summaries. The BC Cancer Agency Vancouver Centre has prepared chemotherapy pre-printed orders, which can be used as a guide for reference. An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

- **BRAJACT** revised (undesignated request changed to class II, eligibility clarified): Adjuvant therapy for breast cancer using doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide followed by paclitaxel (Taxol®)
- **BRAJCMFPO** revised (appointments and labs section)
- **BRAJFEC** revised (appointment section): Adjuvant therapy for breast cancer using doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide
- **BRAVCMFPO** revised (appointments and labs section): Palliative therapy for advanced breast cancer using cyclophosphamide (oral), methotrexate and fluorouracil
- **GIFUR3** revised (treatment options separated): Combined modality adjuvant therapy for high risk rectal carcinoma using fluorouracil, folinic acid (leucovorin) and radiation therapy

- **GIIR** revised (bookings section): Second-line palliative treatment for fluorouracil-refractory metastatic colorectal cancer using irinotecan
- **GOENDCAT** revised (requirement for undesignated approval clarified): treatment of primarily advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer using carboplatin and paclitaxel (GO 95 01)
- **GOOVCATM** revised (requirement for undesignated approval clarified): Primary treatment of invasive epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancer, with no visible residual tumour (moderate-high risk) using paclitaxel and carboplatin
- **GOOVCATR** revised (requirement for undesignated approval clarified): Second line treatment using paclitaxel and carboplatin for epithelial ovarian cancer relapsing after primary treatment
- **UGOCATX** revised (requirement for undesignated approval clarified): Primary treatment of visible residual (extreme risk) invasive epithelial ovarian cancer in ambulatory care settings using paclitaxel and carboplatin
- **GOOVCATX** revised (requirement for undesignated approval clarified): Primary treatment of visible residual (extreme risk) invasive epithelial ovarian cancer in ambulatory care settings using paclitaxel and carboplatin
- **GUEP** revised (dexamethasone dose in outpatient order): therapy for nonseminoma germ cell cancer using etoposide-cisplatin
- **LUPG** revised (eligibility expanded to include non-small cell lung cancer): Treatment of non-small cell lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma with cisplatin and gemcitabine
- **LYECV** revised (antiemetics duration): Consolidation for lymphoma using etoposide, cyclophosphamide and vincristine
- **SAIME** revised (mesna dilution in outpatient order): Etoposide, ifosfamide-mesna for patients with newly diagnosed Ewing's sarcoma/peripheral neuroectodermal tumor (PNET) or rhabdomyosarcoma or advanced soft tissue or bony sarcomas
- **SMAJIFN(IV)** revised (appointments section): Adjuvant therapy of high risk malignant melanoma with high dose interferon (HDIFN) α -2b

PATIENT EDUCATION

Patient information handouts for cancer drugs are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca/DrugDatabasePt/) under Health Professionals Info, Cancer Drug Manual, Drug Information for the Patient. For treatment protocol specific information, go to the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca) under [Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Information for the Patient](#).

DRUG UPDATE

Hyaluronidase (Wydase®, Hyalase®) is no longer generally available in Canada as Wydase® since 2002. One of the traditional indications of this drug is to manage extravasation of vinca alkaloids in addition to other non-pharmacological measures (see August 2002 issue of the Systemic Therapy Update for more details). However, hyaluronidase can still be obtained through the Health Canada Special Access Programme as Hyalase® (CP Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Wrexham, U.K., tel. 44-0-1978-661261).

For more information on the use of hylauronidase, consult the BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policy on the Prevention and Management of Extravasation of Chemotherapy (Policy III-20) (available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Policies and Procedures)

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

Irinotecan Monograph Recent data indicating the Y-site compatibility between irinotecan and leucovorin (1-folinic acid) have been added. The Cancer Drug Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm/.

NURSING UPDATE

1st Annual Systemic Nurses' Clinical Update 2004

On February 28, 29 2004, nurses who care for chemotherapy patients are invited to the 1st Annual Systemic Nurses' Clinical Update 2004, being held in Richmond, BC.

The topics being presented include updates on lymphoma, breast and colorectal cancer. The presenters include oncologists, a nutritionist, a pharmacist and registered nurses. Discussions will focus on current and future trends in treatments for select cancers; management of adverse reactions; PICC line care; genetics for cancer nurses; and the role of nutrition in cancer prevention.

We hope you have received your invitation from the company that is sponsoring the conference. If not please contact the conference planner Valerie Mondou at 1-800-3639130, Ext 4190.

COMMUNITIES ONCOLOGY NETWORK

Erratum — Pharmacy Guide to BCCA Chemotherapy Protocols – On page 38 of the Guide, the third set of bullets under "Some key points to remember", first bullet of that set states "Emetogenicity decreases if the infusion time decreases." It should read "Emetogenicity decreases if the infusion time *increases*."

Fax Numbers for Reimbursement Forms Please note that the correct fax number for Class II and Undesignated Forms is (604) 708-2026, and *not* (604) 8776-6132.

Marianne Moore, CON Pharmacy Educator
BC Cancer Agency - Vancouver Centre

LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE

[Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca) is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca under Patient/Public Info, Unconventional Therapies. The manual consists of 46 short monographs on the more commonly used unconventional cancer therapies (e.g., Essiac, vitamins, teas, shark cartilage) and includes tips for the patient and family on how unconventional therapies can be evaluated. For each therapy the manual provides proponent/advocate claims, as well as evidence-based evaluation/critique quotations from the literature.

This manual is currently being revised and the Fourth Edition will be published in the near future.

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BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE REQUEST FORM

FAX (604) 877-0585

bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

TO SUBSCRIBE: FAX OR EMAIL YOUR REQUEST OR CALL @ 877-6098 LOCAL 2247

FOR URGENT REQUESTS PLEASE CALL (604) 877-6098 LOCAL 2247

OR TOLL-FREE IN BC 1-800-663-3333 LOCAL 2247

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION VIA:

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UPDATES Please Fax-Back information below:

Most items have been hyperlinked for easy access

<input type="checkbox"/> All items for February 2004 (Vol 7 №2)			
Cancer Drug Manual Monographs : (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)			
Patient Education Handout : (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)			
Pre-Printed Orders:			
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJACT	<input type="checkbox"/> GIFUR3	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOVCATR	<input type="checkbox"/> LUPG
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJCMFPO	<input type="checkbox"/> GIIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UGOCATX	<input type="checkbox"/> LYECV
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Protocol Summaries: (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)			
Index of Protocol Summaries			
<input type="checkbox"/> GIAVCAP	<input type="checkbox"/> GIFUC	<input type="checkbox"/> LYTHALID	
<input type="checkbox"/> GIFOLFIRI	<input type="checkbox"/> LYPALL	<input type="checkbox"/> UMYBORTEZ	
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program Policies			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention & Management of Extravasation of Chemotherapy (III-20)			
Reimbursement (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Drug List (01 January 2004)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Form (01 January 2004)			
Systemic Therapy Update Index (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2001		<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2003	

