



Systemic Therapy Update

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- Drug Update – BCG dose clarification

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

CHANGES IN 1ST LINE THERAPY OF METASTATIC PROSTATE CANCER

The B.C. Cancer Agency GU Tumour Group has notified the urologists in B.C. regarding the approved gradual replacement of cyproterone (CPA) plus diethylstilbestrol (DES) as first line therapy of metastatic prostate cancer by the LHRH agonists. It is very important that this change is as gradual as possible during this fiscal year (to 31 March, 2000) since there is no new funding to support the roll over in policy. Except in cases of toxicity related to CPA/DES, patients should finish their existing supplies before making the switch to LHRH agonists. The GU tumour group also emphasised that maximal androgen blockade using continuous antiandrogen therapy with medical or surgical castration does not significantly prolong survival and is therefore no longer indicated. Currently, three LHRH agonists are available in the following depot formulations for prostate cancer:

Table: LHRH agonists for prostate cancer

AGENT		DOSING INTERVAL
Buserelin (Suprefact®)	6.3 mg	every 2 months
	9.45 mg	every 3 months
Goserelin (Zoladex®)	3.6 mg	every 4 weeks
	10.8 mg	every 12 weeks
Leuprolide (Leupron®)*	7.5 mg	every month
	22.5 mg	every 3 months
	30 mg	every 4 months

* 3.75 mg 1-monthly and 11.25 mg 3-monthly injectables, both indicated for endometriosis, are NOT reimbursable. Prescribers should always specify the dose and dosing interval of the injectables to avoid confusion.

These agents are considered therapeutically interchangeable. To avoid the initial flare phenomenon associated with the use of LHRH agonists, it is recommended that CPA 100 mg bid to continue for 3 weeks after the first LHRH agonist injection. If the patient has been off CPA/DES for a break, any antiandrogen can be used. For more details, please refer to the letter from the GU Tumour Group. As well, the BCCA Pharmacy has prepared a letter to the patient regarding this change over. Copies of both letters can be obtained via Fax-Back.

BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The LHRH agonists have been approved to be changed from 2nd to 1st line treatment of metastatic prostate cancer effective 21 February, 2000. All LHRH agonists are now Class I drugs on the Benefit Drug List. A Class II form is no longer required before these drugs are to be dispensed at a radiation cancer centre or reimbursed to a community hospital.

Susan O'Reilly, MB, FRCPC
Provincial Systemic Program Leader

PROTOCOL UPDATE

Protocol codes for treatments requiring "Undesignated Indication" approval prior to use are prefixed with the letter **U**.

- **INDEX to BCCA Protocol Summaries** revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version)
- **BRAVDOC** – revised (tests clarified, hepatic dysfunction precaution and reference added): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using docetaxel.
- **CNB** – new: Suppressive therapy for prolactinomas using bromocriptine
- **ENMITO** – revised (reformatted, prednisone deleted, fludrocortisone added): Treatment of adrenal cortical cancer with mitotane
- **GIRALT** – revised (calculated creatinine clearance for elderly patients added): Palliative treatment of symptomatic advanced or metastatic colorectal cancer using raltitrexed in patients with previous fluorouracil toxicity
- **GOOVETO** – revised (reformatted, clarifications in eligibility and exclusion criteria, hypotension precautions added, creatinine, liver function tests and abdominopelvic imaging deleted): Treatment of relapsed/progressive ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer with etoposide
- **SMAJLEV** – revised (reformatted, agranulocytosis precaution and reference added, scheduled to close April 2000): Adjuvant

therapy for high risk malignant melanoma using levamisole.

PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE

Vancouver Cancer Centre has prepared the following pre-printed orders for chemotherapy protocol:

- **BRAJCMFPO**: Adjuvant therapy for premenopausal high-risk breast cancer using cyclophosphamide (oral), methotrexate and fluorouracil
- **BRAVCMFPO**: Palliative therapy for advanced breast cancer using cyclophosphamide (oral), methotrexate and fluorouracil
- **GIFUR2** – revised: Combined modality adjuvant therapy for high risk rectal carcinoma using fluorouracil, leucovorin, and radiation therapy
- **GUBEP** – revised: Bleomycin, etoposide, cisplatin for nonseminoma germ cell cancers

PATIENT EDUCATION

Patient Education Handouts this is a reminder that handouts for a number of chemotherapy drugs and treatment protocols are on the BCCA H-drive (H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ) as well as available on the Fax-Back service:

▪ Anastrozole	▪ Dexamethasone
▪ Bicalutamide	▪ Docetaxel
▪ BRAJAC	▪ Gemcitabine
▪ BRAJCAF	▪ Irinotecan
▪ BRAJCEF	▪ Letrozole
▪ BRAJCMF	▪ Octreotide
▪ BRAJCMFO	▪ Pamidronate
▪ BRAJTAM	▪ Raltitrexed
▪ BRAVCAF	▪ Rituximab
▪ BRAVCMF	▪ Topotecan
▪ BRAVTAM	▪ Trastuzumab
▪ Capecitabine	▪ Vinorelbine
▪ Clodronate	▪ Warfarin

An index of these handouts is kept at BCCA H-drive (H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ\index). These handouts were not included in the last revision of the BCCA Cancer Drug Manual (2nd ed, 1994). They are currently in the process of being posted on the BCCA Website.

BCG dose clarification – The dose of BCG is sometimes described as mg weight of organisms. It can also be described as colony forming units (CFU), which represents the viable organisms in the material. The Pacis® (Montréal substrain) dose was commonly referred to as 120 mg. The 50 mg OncoTICE® (TICE substrain) is labelled as 1-8 x 10⁸ CFU. To avoid confusion, it is recommended that the dose for OncoTICE® be written as 1-8 x 10⁸ CFU, and not as 50 mg. Ordering in CFU will allow the pharmacist preparing the dose to make an exact match between the product label and the prescription.

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BCCA SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE FAX 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:

E-mail (Word 6.0)

Fax

@	
()	Attn:

UPDATES Please Fax-Back information below:

<input type="checkbox"/> All items			
Patient Handouts:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anastrozole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dexamethasone
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicalutamide	<input type="checkbox"/>	Docetaxel
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAJAC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gemcitabine
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAJCAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irinotecan
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAJCEF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letrozole
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAJCMF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Octreotide
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAJCMFO	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pamidronate
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAJTAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raltitrexed
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAVCAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rituximab
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAVCMF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Topotecan
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAVTAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trastuzumab
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capecitabine	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vinorelbine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clodronate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warfarin
Pre-Printed Orders:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAJCMFPO		
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAVCMFPO		
<input type="checkbox"/>	GIFUR2		
<input type="checkbox"/>	GUBEP		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Index: Pre-Printed Orders		
Protocol Summaries:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRAVDOC		
<input type="checkbox"/>	CNB		
<input type="checkbox"/>	GIRALT		
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOOVETO		
<input type="checkbox"/>	SMAJLEV		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Index: Protocol Summaries (current month)		
Reimbursement			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefit Drug List (21 Feb 2000)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 2 Form (21 Feb 2000)		

RADIATION CANCER CENTRE ACCESS

BULLETIN UPDATES	LOCATION
Patient Handouts:	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ
	anastrozole bicalutamide brajac brajcaf brajcef brajcmf brajcmfo brajtam bravcaf bravcmf bravtam capecitabine clodronate dexamethasone docetaxel gemcitabine irinotecan letrozole octreotide pamidronate raltitrexed rituximab topotecan trastuzumab vinorelbine warfarin
Index of Patient Educ Handouts	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ\Index\Index_NT
Pre-Printed Orders	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Orders\
	Breast\ brajcmfpo
	Breast\ bravcmfpo
	GI\ gifur2
	GU\ gubep
Index of Pre-Printed Orders	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Orders\VCC\Index
Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol
	Breast\ bravdoc
	CNS\CNB
	Endocrine\ enmito
	GI\ giralt
	GO\ gooveto
	Melanoma\ smajlev
Index of Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Index\Index_NT or Index_W6
Reimbursement	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs
Benefit Drug List	Benefit
Class 2 Form	Class2

For easy access, double-click your systemic chemo icon.

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