



BC Cancer Agency

Systemic Therapy Update

Volume 4, Number 10

for health professionals who care for cancer patients
 Available on website www.bccancer.bc.ca

November 2001

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

BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The following new program has been funded by the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program effective 1 November, 2001:

- Carboplatin for seminoma (GUSCARB)
- Carboplatin for head and neck cancer (HNCMT)
- Fluorouracil for head and neck cancer (HNCMT)
- Testosterone for breast cancer (BRAVTEST)

These are now added to the existing Class I indications for these drugs on the benefit list.

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

The current Benefit Drug List and Class II forms are available on the website www.bccancer.com.

PROTOCOL UPDATE

Protocols by Drugs Index A cross-referenced index lists the BC Cancer Agency benefit drugs with their corresponding protocols. This index can be obtained via H-drive at regional cancer centres or Fax-back as listed at the end of the Update.

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

- **INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries** revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version)
- **BRAVTEST** new: Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using testosterone enanthate
- **CNMODPCV** revised (Title and Eligibility clarified, typos corrected in Tests, Premedications added, procarbazine dosing schedule clarified in Treatment): Modified PCV chemotherapy for brain tumours using procarbazine, lomustine (CCNU) and vincristine
- **GIFUC** revised (typos corrected in Dose Modifications): Palliative chemotherapy for upper gastrointestinal tract cancer (gastric, esophageal, gall bladder carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma) using infusional fluorouracil and cisplatin
- **GIIRFUFA** revised (contact physicians, eligibility, treatment, dose modification, precautions, references): First-line palliative combination chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer using irinotecan, fluorouracil and folinic acid (leucovorin)

- **GOOVTOP** revised (renal dose modifications clarified): Treatment of relapsed/progressive epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer using topotecan
- **GUSCARB** new: Adjuvant therapy for stage I high risk seminoma using carboplatin
- **HNCMT** revised (activation date corrected): Combined chemotherapy (carboplatin and fluorouracil) and radiation treatment for locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck
- **SAVIM** revised (typo corrected in creatinine clearance formula): Etoposide, ifosfamide-mesna for patients with newly diagnosed Ewing's sarcoma/peripheral neuroectodermal tumor or rhabdomyosarcoma or advanced sarcomas

Protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/ccp.

CANCER MANAGEMENT MANUAL

Genitourinary Section Best practice guidelines for prostate cancer are now linked to the individual risk groups.

The Cancer Management Manual is available on BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/cmm.

PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE

Pre-printed orders should always be checked with the most current BC Cancer Agency protocol summaries. An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

PATIENT EDUCATION

Testosterone enanthate a new patient information handout has been developed for this injectable.

Patient handouts can be obtained from our website, H-drive if your are at a regional cancer centre, or via the Fax-back form at the end of this newsletter.

DRUG UPDATE

Fluoxymesterone and Testosterone enanthate Fluoxymesterone (Halotestin®), an oral androgen for the palliative therapy of metastatic breast cancer, was discontinued worldwide by the manufacturer. Testosterone undecanoate (Andriol®), the only other oral androgen in Canada, and testosterone cypionate (Depo-Testosterone

Cypionate®), have not been studied for this indication. Hence, the B.C. Cancer Agency has approved the use of testosterone enanthate (Delatestryl®) intramuscular injection to replace fluoxymesterone in this patient population. Of interest, dosing is guided by an increase in hemoglobin which generally precedes virilization (see protocol summary BRAVTEST). Patients will require a new prescription for testosterone enanthate.

Revision of Irinotecan-Fluorouracil (GIIRFUFA) regimen This treatment protocol has been revised to reflect the recent reports of safety concerns in two NCIC clinical trials (see Update June 2001 for more details). The revised protocol has lower starting doses for irinotecan (100 mg/m²) and fluorouracil (400 mg/m²) as well as integrated tables on dose modifications for toxicity.

Vigilant monitoring of all patients receiving this protocol is required and the dose modification guidelines outlined in the current protocol should be observed with particular attention paid to those required during the first cycle of therapy.

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

The Cancer Drug Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm.

PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policies are available at <h:\everyone\systemic\prov\chemo\policies> on the H-drive at the regional cancer centres and on www.bccancer.bc.ca in the BC Cancer Agency website.

LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE

Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/uct. 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 by evidence-based evaluation/critique quotations from the literature.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

BC Cancer Agency Annual Cancer Conference will be held at the Wall Centre, Vancouver, on 22-24 November 2001. The conference will have presentations of interests to physicians, nurses, psychosocial oncology professionals, and pharmacists. For more details, please contact Jack Chritchley at (604) 877 6183.

ERRATUM

HNCMT This protocol was omitted by mistake from the Protocol Update section in the October 2001 issue. The Protocol Update section should have included:

HNCMT new: Combined chemotherapy (carboplatin and fluorouracil) and radiation treatment for locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck

UNDESIGNATED INDICATION APPLICATION

New Fax Number Effective 1 November, applications for individual use of medication for an

IN TOUCH	www.bccancer.bc.ca	bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
BC Cancer Agency	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Communities Oncology Network	Ext 2744	jchritch@bccancer.bc.ca
Nursing Professional Practice	Ext 2623	ilundie@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Professional Practice	Ext 2247	gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program	Ext 2247	gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca
Communities Oncology Network Pharmacist	Ext 2515	francish@bccancer.bc.ca
Drug Information	Ext 3028	robrien@bccancer.bc.ca
Library / Cancer Information	Ext 2690	dnoble@bccancer.bc.ca
Update Editor	Ext 2288	mdelemos@bccancer.bc.ca
Cancer Centre for the Southern Interior (CCSI)	(250) 712-3900	Toll-Free 1-(888)-563-7773
Fraser Valley Cancer Centre (FVCC)	(604)-930-2098	Toll-Free 1-(800)-523-2885
Vancouver Cancer Centre (VCC)	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Vancouver Island Cancer Centre (VICC)	(250) 519-5500	Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322

undesigned indication should be faxed to (604) 877-6132. This is part of an ongoing reorganisation to streamline the process of undesigned indication application. More information about this process will be announced in the next Update.

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REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE ACCESS

BULLETIN UPDATES	LOCATION
Patient Handouts:	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ Testosterone enanthate
Pre-Printed Orders	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Orders\VCC
Index of Pre-Printed Orders	Index.doc
Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\tumour site"
Index of Protocol Summaries	Index_NT or Index_W6
BRAVTEST	GIIRFUFA HNCMT
CNMODPCV	GOOVTOP SAVIM
GIFUC	GUSCARB
Reimbursement	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs
Benefit Drug List (1 October 2001)	BenefitList.doc
Class 2 Form (1 October 2001)	Class2.doc
Filgrastim Usage Form (1 June 2001)	GCSF_form.doc

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

We appreciate your comments. Write us at bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

BC CANCER AGENCY 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

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Attn:

UPDATES Please Fax-Back information below:

<input type="checkbox"/> All items	
Patient Handouts: (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)	
<input type="checkbox"/> testosterone enanthate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-Printed Orders:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Pre-Printed Orders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protocol Summaries: (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)	
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVTEST	<input type="checkbox"/> CNMODPCV
<input type="checkbox"/> GIFUC	<input type="checkbox"/> GIIRFUFA
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOVTOP	<input type="checkbox"/> GUSCARB
<input type="checkbox"/> HNCMT	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVIM
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Protocol Summaries (current month)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reimbursement (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Drug List (01 October 2001)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Form (01 October 2001)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Filgrastim Usage Form (01 June 2001)	
Systemic Therapy Update Index (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2000	
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