



Systemic Therapy Update

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Website access at <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate.htm>

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[IN TOUCH](#) phone list is provided if additional information is needed.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

SHORTAGE OF DACARBAZINE

There is currently a supply shortage of dacarbazine by Mayne Pharma (Canada). As a temporary measure, dacarbazine made by Bedford Laboratories (200 mg/vial, 10 vials/pack) can be obtained via Health Canada's Special Access Programme (SAP). For lymphoma patients treated with the LYABVD regimen, there is also the option of substituting dacarbazine with cyclophosphamide (see protocol for details on dosing).

CANCER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The *Neuro-Oncology Tumour Group* has introduced a summary of active clinical trials/studies at the BC Cancer Agency (www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/CancerManagementGuidelines/NeuroOncology/ClinicalTrials), including:

- Primary chemotherapy with temozolomide vs. radiotherapy in patients with low-grade gliomas after stratification for genetic 1p/19q loss: a phase III study.
- Measurement of functional impairments and adaptational efforts in persons with malignant gliomas: a prospective mixed methods study.
- Complementary therapy decision making processes of advanced cancer patients.

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

Melphalan Monograph and Patient Handouts These have been completely revised and updated. Expert review was provided by Dr. Jason Hart (Lymphoma Tumour Group). Highlighted changes include:

- A precaution on hepatitis B reactivation.
- Information on hyperthermic isolated limb perfusion for in-transit melanoma metastases in the Parenteral Administration section.
- Potential interactions with cimetidine or digoxin now included in the patient handout.

Mercaptopurine and Thioguanine Monographs and Patient Handouts These have been completely revised. Expert review was provided by Dr Stephen Nantel (Leukemia/BMT Program of BC). Some of the highlighted changes include:

- A paragraph on hepatotoxicity as a clinically significant side effect.

- Dosing in patients with deficiency of thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT), an enzyme essential for metabolic elimination of these drugs.
- More details on interaction with xanthine oxidase present in milk (cow, goat, human), which leads to decreased absorption of mercaptopurine, and interaction with allopurinol which inhibits xanthine oxidase.
- Avoiding the use of the 6-MP and 6-TG abbreviations, which have been associated with cases of 6-fold overdose.

Thrombocytopenia Statement in Patient Handouts has been revised. Most patients receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy are counselled to avoid ASA and NSAID's. However, a strict stance on this issue may be problematic for different reasons:

- Patients may inappropriately discontinue medically-prescribed ASA.
- Occasional use of ibuprofen may be highly effective for musculoskeletal complaints and may have minimal effect on platelet counts.

After considerable multidisciplinary consultation within the agency, the statement has been revised to explain both issues:

"Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.

- *Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., **ASA for your heart**).*
- *For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) first, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable."*

Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart has been revised to indicate the stability of paclitaxel when diluted to a low concentration of 0.1 mg/mL.

LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PATIENT HANDOUTS

The **BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries, Provincial Pre-Printed Orders (PPPOs) and Patient Handouts** are revised periodically. New and revised protocols, PPPOs and patient handouts for this month are listed below. Protocol codes for treatments requiring "Compassionate Access Program" approval are prefixed with the letter **U**.

New protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (affected documents are checked):

Code	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Protocol Name
PUCAT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary Treatment of Cancer of Unknown Primary Origin Using Carboplatin and Paclitaxel

Revised protocols, PPPOs and patient handouts (affected documents are checked):

Code	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
UGICIRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Monitoring for blood pressure and proteinuria revised</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Irinotecan, Bevacizumab and Capecitabine
UGICOXB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Monitoring for blood pressure and proteinuria revised</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Oxaliplatin, Bevacizumab and Capecitabine
UGIFFIRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Monitoring for blood pressure and proteinuria revised</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Irinotecan, Fluorouracil, Folinic Acid (Leucovorin) and Bevacizumab
UGIFFOXB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Monitoring for blood pressure and proteinuria revised</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Oxaliplatin, 5-Fluorouracil, Folinic Acid (Leucovorin) and Bevacizumab

COMMUNITIES ONCOLOGY NETWORK

CON hospitals may sometimes provide oncology drug treatments to patients from out of province or out of country. These costs should not be submitted to BC Cancer Agency via OSCAR reimbursement. Rather, the CON hospitals should recoup the costs of the cancer drugs from the patient's home province in accordance with the Interprovincial Reciprocal Agreement or charging the patient directly.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

The following are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca) under the Health Professionals Info section:

Reimbursement and Forms: Benefit Drug List, Class II, Compassionate Access Program (Undesignated Indication)	www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms
Cancer Drug Manual	www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm
Cancer Management Guidelines	www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines
Cancer Chemotherapy Protocols	www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols
Cancer Chemotherapy Pre-Printed Orders	www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols under the index page of each tumour site
Systemic Therapy Program Policies	www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies
Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual	under Patient/Public Info, Unconventional Therapies

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	Ext 8003	
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	Fax (604) 708-2051	
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Fraser Valley Centre (FVCC).....	(604) 930-2098	Toll-Free 1-(800) 523-2885
Vancouver Centre (VCC).....	(604) 877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800) 663-3333
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