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

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Fulvestrant (Faslodex®) is a new agent recently approved by Health Canada for metastatic breast cancer. See under “Drug Update – Fulvestrant” for more information.

Registration for the BC Cancer Agency Annual Cancer Conference is now available through the website. See under “Continuing Education – BC Cancer Agency Annual Cancer Conference” for more details on registration and this year’s programs.

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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROTOCOL CHANGES

Revised Protocols Several protocols have undergone minor revisions by the following tumour groups:

- Gynecological: palliative vinorelbine treatment for ovarian cancer – (U)GOOVIN
- Genitourinary: nonseminoma treatment with etoposide, cisplatin, ifosfamide – GUVIP2
- Lymphoma: treatment of multiple myeloma with bortezomib – (U)MYBORTEZ and cyclophosphamide priming therapy prior to stem cell transplant (MYHDC)

LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS

The **INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries** is revised monthly (includes 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**.

- **(U)GOOVIN** revised (*days for CBC and diff clarified*): Palliative chemotherapy for re-treatment of ovarian, tubal, and peritoneal cancer using vinorelbine
- **GUVIP2** revised (*dosing time and etoposide infusion time clarified*): Nonseminoma consolidation/salvage protocol using etoposide, cisplatin, ifosfamide, mesna
- **(U)MYBORTEZ** revised (*clarification of baseline tests and dose modification for diarrhea, dose level for diarrhea table deleted*): Treatment of multiple myeloma with bortezomib
- **MYHDC** revised (*contact physician, tests, prehydration and filgrastim dose revised*): Single dose cyclophosphamide priming therapy for multiple myeloma prior to autologous stem cell transplant

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

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 (*methylprednisolone replaced by hydrocortisone for hypersensitivity management*): Adjuvant therapy for breast cancer using doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide followed by paclitaxel
- **BRAVCAD** revised (*methylprednisolone replaced by hydrocortisone for hypersensitivity management*): Palliative Therapy for metastatic breast cancer using docetaxel and capecitabine
- **BRAVDOC** revised (*methylprednisolone replaced by hydrocortisone for hypersensitivity management*): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using docetaxel (Taxotere®)
- **BRAVDOC7** revised (*methylprednisolone replaced by hydrocortisone for hypersensitivity management*): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using weekly docetaxel (Taxotere®)
- **BRAVTAX** revised (*dilution volume for low dose of paclitaxel*): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using paclitaxel
- **BRAVTRAP** revised (*dilution volume for low dose of paclitaxel*): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®) and paclitaxel as first-line treatment for recurrent breast cancer refractory to anthracycline chemotherapy
- **GOOVAX3** revised (*methylprednisolone replaced by hydrocortisone for hypersensitivity management*): Treatment of progressive, platinum-refractory epithelial ovarian carcinoma, primary peritoneal carcinoma or fallopian tube carcinoma using paclitaxel
- **(U)GOOVIN** revised (*days for CBC and diff clarified*): Palliative chemotherapy for re-treatment of ovarian, tubal, and peritoneal cancer using vinorelbine
- **GOSMCC2** revised (*methylprednisolone replaced by hydrocortisone for hypersensitivity management*): Treatment of small cell carcinoma of cervix using paclitaxel, cisplatin, etoposide and carboplatin with radiation
- **(U)GUTAXGEM** revised (*dilution volume for low dose of paclitaxel*): Palliative Therapy for germ cell cancers using paclitaxel and gemcitabine
- **LUPG** revised (*random glucose added to lab section*): Treatment of non-small cell lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma with cisplatin and gemcitabine

- **LYCHOP-R** revised (*“pilot” designation removed, methylprednisolone replaced by hydrocortisone for hypersensitivity management*): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone and rituximab (CHOP-R)
- **MYHDC** revised (*tests, prehydration and filgrastim dose revised*): Single dose cyclophosphamide priming therapy for multiple myeloma prior to autologous stem cell transplant
- **SAAJAP** revised (*nabilone prn dose clarified*): Adjuvant therapy for osteosarcoma using doxorubicin (Adriamycin®) and cisplatin
- **SAAVAP** revised (*nabilone prn dose clarified*): Therapy of advanced osteosarcoma using doxorubicin (Adriamycin®) and cisplatin

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

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

NURSING UPDATE

Chemotherapy Nurse Certification

Congratulations to the following RNs who have completed BCCA Nursing Chemotherapy Certification since May 2004.

Regional Cancer Center Nurses

Carol-Anne Cheley, VC
Ann Bojanczyk-Shibata, VC
Marcie Gilfillan, VC
Leanne Joki, VC
Stephanie Higgins, FVC
Rachelle Gunderson, CSI

Community Hospitals

Gaye Enns, Williams Lake

Community Cancer Centre

Brenda Gray, Sechelt Nurses
Debbie Studer, Kamloops
Jacquie Fowler, Kelowna
Mary Jane Jackson, Salmon Arm
Ladonna Fehr, Prince George
Kerri Hickson, Prince George
Lea Holt, North Vancouver
Tanis Petrie, New Westminster

Articles of the Month

Stern J, Ippoliti C. Management of acute cancer treatment-induced diarrhea. *Semin Oncol Nurs* 2003;19 (4 Suppl 3):11-6

(This article follows up on last month's "Overview of chemotherapy induced diarrhea").

Dow KH, Kuhn D. Fertility options in young breast cancer survivors: A review of the literature. *Oncol Nurs Forum* 2004;12;31(3):E46-53.

(Describes the impact of treatment on fertility, discusses fertility-sparing options available for women with breast cancer and explores pregnancy subsequent to breast cancer).

Judy Oliver
Education Resource Nurse
BC Cancer Agency

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

Fulvestrant (Faslodex®) injection has recently been granted approval by [Health Canada](#) as a treatment of estrogen-receptor positive metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women with disease progression following antiestrogen therapy (tamoxifen **and** any aromatase inhibitor). Until now, this drug has been available free of charge through the Special Access Programme (SAP). With the Health Canada approval, fulvestrant is no longer available via SAP. Fulvestrant is not currently a BCCA benefit drug. AstraZeneca, the manufacturer, has set up a Faslodex Named Patient Program for the following patients:

1. **Patients currently receiving fulvestrant:** Patients will continue to receive free drug provided that their physicians apply to the Faslodex Named Patient Program.
2. **New patients starting fulvestrant:** For now, new patients who fit the Health Canada approved indication can apply to the Faslodex Named Patient Program to be assessed to receive free drug. Patients should be made aware currently it is unclear of the long term funding for this treatment through this program. Physicians treating patients with fulvestrant will still need to receive [BCCA undesignated approval](#). Patients who do not fit the Health Canada approved indication will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the BCCA Breast Tumour Group and Provincial Systemic Therapy Program.

The contact number for the Faslodex Named Patient Program is 1-800-565-5877 local 6091. For more information, call the BCCA Undesignated Indication Requests at (604) 877-6277 or 1-800 633-3333 local 6277.

Fulvestrant clinical trial at BCCA: A new phase III randomized, double blind, multicenter clinical trial comparing the efficacy and tolerability of fulvestrant versus exemestane in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive advanced breast cancer with disease progression after prior non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor therapy is underway at the BC Cancer Agency. This trial is being conducted at the Vancouver Centre only. The principal investigator is Dr. Stephen Chia, the clinical trials nurse is Debbie Jepson.

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.

PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

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

PROVINCIAL DRUG INFORMATION



New Provincial Drug Information Specialist We are pleased to announce that Dr. Thanh Vu has recently joined the BC Cancer Agency as a Drug Information Specialist for the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program. Thanh will be working out of the Vancouver Centre (Provincial Pharmacy, Room 4250B) with Drs. Saira Mithani and Mário de Lemos to provide provincial drug information consultation. Her other responsibilities will include updating and maintaining the BCCA Cancer Drug Manual.

Thanh received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of British Columbia. She has previous experience in the oncology setting as a staff pharmacist in oncology at the Prince George Hospital and as a drug use evaluation pharmacist at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton. Her education and experience will be a great addition to the Provincial Drug Information Service. Thanh may be reached Monday to Friday at (604) 877-6098 ext 2597.

The direct line for Provincial Drug Information is (604) 877-6275.

LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE

[Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual](#) 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.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

British Columbia Cancer Agency Annual Cancer Conference 2004 You can now register for this year's conference, which will be held from **November 25 - 27th, 2004** at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver. Registration fees are: \$100 early bird (before October 15th), \$150 (after October 15th through November 24th) and \$200 (25-27 November).

The theme of this year will be "**BC: A Living Laboratory - Enhanced Care Through Research at the BCCA**", which will focus on new approaches to maintaining the strong cancer control program of the BCCA while evolving into a high-performing translational research organization.

The **Partners in Cancer Care** meeting and the **Scientific Fair** will be held respectively on the morning and afternoon of Thursday, November 25th. The **Clinical Scientific Symposium** will be held on Friday, November 26th. This is open to all healthcare professionals and is an academic, evidence-based exploration of new scientific insights that hold potential to advance cancer care. In addition, there will be **Provincial Oncology Professionals** education and business meetings held on selected dates on November 25 - 27th for the following disciplines:

<u>November 25th</u>	
• Pathology	
<u>November 26th</u>	
• Nursing	• Nutrition
• Palliative care	• Psychosocial Oncology
<u>November 27th</u>	
• Pharmacy	• Radiation Therapy
• Oral Oncology	• Family Practice
• Surgical Oncology	• Pediatric Oncology
• Medical Oncology Retreat	

Other programs will include the **Poster Presentation and Clinical Scientific Banquet** (November 26th) and the new **Public Open Education Session** (November 27th).

For more information on the conference registration, please visit the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca.

National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium (NOPS) 2004 will be held from **October 22 - 24th, 2004** at the Marriott Bloor-Yorkville in Toronto, Ontario. The theme for 2004 is "**Perspectives in Oncology Pharmacy (POP)**". This symposium is presented by the Canadian Association of Pharmacy (CAPHO).

CAPHO is the Canadian national forum for oncology pharmacy practitioners and other health care professionals interested in oncology pharmacy. POP at NOPS will cover topics in the areas of symptom management, new drug updates, pharmacy based research, board certification and academic training, etc.

Registration will begin soon through the CAPHO website at www.capho.ca.

Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO) The 16th Annual CANO Conference will be held on September 26-29th, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency, Calgary. The theme for this year is "**The Spectrum of Cancer Care: Celebrating the Present, Creating our Future**".

Conference information and registration forms are available on the CANO website at www.cos.ca/cano.

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	(250) 519-5500	Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322

BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE REQUEST FORM

FAX (604) 877-0585
 bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

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Patient Education Handout : (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)				
Pre-Printed Orders:				
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJACT	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVCAD	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVDOC	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVDOC7	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVTAX
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Protocol Summaries: (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)			Index of Protocol Summaries	
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Reimbursement (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)				
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