

BCCA Protocol Summary for Palliative Therapy for Kaposi's Sarcoma Using Doxorubicin

Protocol Code

KSAD

Tumour Group

Kaposi's Sarcoma

Contact Physicians

*Dr. Barbara Melosky
Dr. Karen Gelmon*

ELIGIBILITY:

- extensive cutaneous/visceral Kaposi's Sarcoma refractory to previous liposomal chemotherapy, [including persistent or relapsing disease](#)
- performance status ECOG 3 or better

EXCLUSIONS:

- inadequate hematologic or liver function

TESTS:

- Baseline: CBC & differential, platelets, liver enzymes, bilirubin
- Before each treatment: CBC & differential, platelets
- If clinically indicated: liver enzymes, bilirubin

PREMEDICATIONS:

- Antiemetic protocol for LOW MODERATE emetogenic chemotherapy (see protocol SCNAUSEA)

TREATMENT:

Drug	Dose	BCCA Administration Guideline
Doxorubicin	15-20 mg	IV push

Repeat once every week until 12 doses or 3 months or disease progression.

Discontinue if no response after 2 cycles.

Regular antiemetics usually required.

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

1. Hematological

ANC (x10⁹/L)		Platelets (x10⁹/L)	Dose
greater than 1	and	greater than 75	100%
0.5 - 1	or	50 - 75	10 mg
less than 0.5	or	less than 50	delay one week

2. Hepatic dysfunction

Total Bilirubin (micromol/L)	Dose
less than 25	100%
25 – 50	50%
51 – 85	25%
greater than 85	stop treatment

PRECAUTIONS:

1. **Neutropenia:** Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated aggressively.
2. **Extravasation:** Doxorubicin causes pain and tissue necrosis if extravasated. Refer to BCCA Extravasation Guidelines.
3. **Cardiac Toxicity:** Doxorubicin is cardiotoxic and must be used with caution, if at all, in patients with severe hypertension or cardiac dysfunction. Cardiac assessment recommended if lifelong dose of 450 mg/m² to be exceeded. Refer to BCCA Cancer Drug Manual.

Call Dr. Barbara Melosky or Dr. Karen Gelmon or tumour group delegate at (604) 877-6000 or 1-800-663-3333 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.

Date activated: N/A

Date last revised: 1 Oct 2010 (eligibility clarified)

References:

1. Fischl MA, Krown SE, O'Boyle KP et al. Weekly doxorubicin in the treatment of patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma. AIDS Clinical Trials Group. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 1993;6:259-64.