

# BCCA Protocol Summary for Therapy for Advanced Ovarian Cancer using an Aromatase Inhibitor

**Protocol Code**

GOOVAI

**Tumour Group**

Gynecologic Oncology

**Contact Physician**

Dr. Anna Tinker

## ELIGIBILITY:

- Hormonal treatment for advanced ovarian cancer in postmenopausal women

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Premenopausal women
- Patients who have progressed on an alternate aromatase inhibitor (note: may be used by patients who did not tolerate an alternate aromatase inhibitor).

## TESTS

Baseline: If clinically indicated: serum cholesterol, triglycerides

Biannual bone density test

## TREATMENT:

Letrozole 2.5 mg PO daily, until evidence of progression.

Funding for aromatase inhibitors other than letrozole should be requested via the BCCA Compassionate Access Program (CAP).

## PRECAUTIONS:

1. Hepatic dysfunction: Aromatase inhibitors are considered safe in mild-to-moderate hepatic dysfunction but have not been studied in severe hepatic dysfunction.
2. Bone density: The long-term effects of aromatase inhibitors on bone density in adjuvant therapy patients are unknown. Supplementation with calcium and vitamin D and regular weight bearing exercise is recommended. A bisphosphonate should be considered if clinically indicated. Caution in patients with an already established diagnosis of clinically significant osteoporosis.
3. Hyperlipidemia: An increase in cholesterol or triglyceride levels may occur when an aromatase inhibitor is initiated. Levels may need to be checked during the first few months of therapy, especially in those patients with prior significant lipid elevations.
4. Cytochrome P450 interaction: If exemestane is used, avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice due to potential interaction.

**Contact Dr. Anna Tinker or tumour group delegate at (604) 877-6000 or 1-800-663-3333 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.**

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Date Revised:

### **References**

1. Garrett A, Quinn MA, Hormonal therapies and gynaecological cancers. Best Pract Res Clin Obstet Gynaecol 2008;22(2):407-21.
2. Li YF, Hu W, Fu SQ, et al, Aromatase inhibitors in ovarian cancer: is there a role? Int J Gynecol Cancer 2008;18:600-14.