

BCCA Protocol Summary for 5-Fluorouracil and Leucovorin for Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer (Nasopharyngeal)

Protocol Code

HNNAVFUFA

Tumour Group

Head and Neck

Contact Physician

Dr. Cheryl Ho

ELIGIBILITY:

- All patients with recurrence or metastasis of a primary in the head and neck region and with any histology except lymphoma and melanoma
- [check eligibility for cisplatin combination first](#)

TESTS:

- Baseline CBC, diff, platelets, bilirubin, AST, alkaline phosphatase
- CBC, diff, platelets and doctor visit initially every 2 weeks (chemotherapy to be given weekly). Bilirubin, AST, alkaline phosphatase if indicated
- If tolerating treatment well and disease is stable, doctor visit can be every 4 weeks with CBC and diff every 2 weeks and treatment weekly
- Tests to measure treatment response to be done every 6-8 weeks

TREATMENT:

- Fluorouracil and leucovorin:

Drug	Dose	BCCA Administration Guideline
Fluorouracil (5-FU)	500 mg/m ²	IV push
Leucovorin (Folinic Acid)	20 mg/m ²	IV push prior to fluorouracil

Repeat every week x minimum 6-8 cycles. Each week is one cycle.

If response or stabilisation occurs, continue until disease progression or toxicity occurs.

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

- For fluorouracil only

1. Hematological

ANC (x10 ⁹ /L)		Platelets (x10 ⁹ /L)	Dose (fluorouracil)
greater than or equal to 1.5	and	greater than or equal to 100	100%
1 -1.49	or	50-99	75%
less than 1	or	less than 50	Delay

2. Gastrointestinal

GI toxicity	Dose adjustment (fluorouracil)
Grade 1	None
Grade 2	Discontinue for 1 week; decrease by 25%
Grade 3-4	Discontinue: consider other treatment

- Symptom checklist at every visit
- Use chemotherapy flow sheets with vertical columns

PRECAUTIONS:

1. **Possible drug interactions with fluorouracil and warfarin, phenytoin and fosphenytoin** have been reported and may occur at any time. Close monitoring is recommended (eg, for warfarin, monitor INR weekly during fluorouracil therapy and for 1 month after stopping fluorouracil).

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

Date activated: 01 Nov 2010 (replacing HNFUFA)

Date revised: 02 Dec 2010 (Dose modifications for hematological toxicities clarified)

References:

Jacobs C. et al. Phase III randomized study comparing cisplatin and fluorouracil as single agents and in combination for advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck. J Clin Oncol 1992;10(2):257-63.