

BCCA Protocol Summary for Palliative Therapy for Malignant Melanoma Using Tamoxifen

Protocol Code

SMTAM

Tumour Group

Melanoma

Contact Physician

Dr. Richard Klasa

ELIGIBILITY:

- Metastatic malignant melanoma when other treatment modalities are not advisable

EXCLUSIONS:

- Patients with a history of significant thromboembolic disease

TESTS:

- Clinical assessment every 3-6 months to monitor disease progress (unless obvious clinical progression, then use clinical discretion regarding further imaging)
- If clinically indicated: Liver enzymes, bilirubin

TREATMENT:

- Tamoxifen 20 mg po BID until evidence of progression

PRECAUTIONS:

- 1. Myelosuppression:** In melanoma patients, any observed hematologic abnormality would be idiosyncratic and routine CBCs are not recommended.
- 2. Endometrial Cancer:** Annual gynecologic examinations are recommended. Pelvic complaints, such as unusual vaginal bleeding, require prompt evaluation.
- 3. Ocular Toxicity:** Ocular toxicity is rare and may occur after only a few weeks of therapy, although it is more common with prolonged treatment. Ophthalmologic examination is recommended if visual disturbances occur.
- 4. Thromboembolism:** Tamoxifen is associated with an increased risk of thromboembolism that is comparable to estrogen replacement therapy.
- 5. Hepatotoxicity:** While hepatotoxicity is rare and usually presents as elevated hepatic enzymes, more serious liver abnormalities have been reported.
- 6. Ovulation Induction:** Tamoxifen may induce ovulation in pre- and peri-menopausal women. Barrier forms of contraception are recommended.

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

Date activated: 21 June 1996

Date revised: 01 May 2009 (unsafe abbreviations and symbols replaced,

disclaimer revised)

References:

Toma Sa Ugolini D and Palumbo R. Tamoxifen in the treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma: still a controversy? *Int J Oncol* 1999;15(2):321-37.