

# BCCA Protocol Summary for Anagrelide as Second-line Treatment of Thrombocytosis Related to Myeloproliferative Disorders

**Protocol Code**

LKANAG

**Tumour Group**

Leukemia/BMT

**Contact Physician**

Dr. Donna Hogge

## ELIGIBILITY:

- myeloproliferative disorder
- platelet count of either: **greater than** 400 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L with symptoms  
**greater than** 1000 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L without symptoms
- inadequate response to or intolerance of hydroxyurea and/or interferon
- Class II form must be completed
- Combination use with hydroxyurea requires BCCA Undesignated request approval.

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Use with great care in patients with heart disease.
- Use with caution in patients with renal and /or hepatic impairment.
- Do not use during pregnancy

## TESTS:

- CBC, platelets, differential
  - baseline
  - q1-2 weeks during dosage titration
  - q1-3 months during maintenance
- Urea, creatinine, electrolytes, bilirubin, AST, alkaline phosphatase
  - baseline
  - regularly for patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment

## PREMEDICATIONS:

none

## TREATMENT:

Drug	Dose	BCCA Administration Guideline
Anagrelide	0.5mg po qid starting dose	adjusted according to platelet count; usual maintenance dose is 1-4mg po daily in divided doses (bid to qid).

In patients with satisfactory response, continue therapy indefinitely.

#### DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

none except titration to control platelet count

#### PRECAUTIONS:

1. **Headache:** Occurs in about 30% of patients; generally mild but can be more severe. Treat with acetaminophen prn.
2. **Palpitations:** Occur in about 25% of patients; may require discontinuation of anagrelide.
3. **Diarrhea:** Occurs in about 25% of patients. Supportive treatment involves adequate hydration, ingestion of low fibre foods in small amounts at frequent intervals.
4. **Fluid retention:** Occurs in about 20% of patients. Supportive treatment involves elevation of the feet and avoidance of tight clothing.

**Call Dr. Michael Barnett or tumour group delegate at (604) 875-4337 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.**

Date activated: 01 May 2001

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

#### References:

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4. Silverstein et al. Anagrelide: a new drug for treating thrombocytosis. *N Engl J Med* 1988;318:1292-4.
5. Anagrelide Study Group. Anagrelide, a therapy for thrombocythemic states: experience in 577 patients. *Am J Med* 1992;92:69-76.
6. Pettitt et al. Anagrelide for control of thrombocythemia in polycythemia and other myeloproliferative disorders. *Semin Hematol* 1997;34:51-4.
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8. Bennett et al. Cost-effectiveness model of a phase II clinical trial of a new pharmaceutical for essential thrombocythemia: Is it helpful to policy makers? *Semin Hematol* 1999;36 (Suppl 2):26-9.
9. Storen et al. Long-term use of anagrelide in young patients with essential thrombocythemia. *Blood* 2001;97:863-6.