BCCA Protocol Summary for Palliative Therapy for Advanced Thyroid Cancers Using DOXOrubicin

Protocol Code: HNOTAVD
Tumour Group: Head and Neck
Contact Physician: Dr. Cheryl Ho

ELIGIBILITY:
- Advanced medullary carcinoma of the thyroid
- Anaplastic thyroid cancer

EXCLUSIONS:
- Contraindication to DOXOrubicin

TESTS:
- Baseline: CBC and diff, AST, GGT, LDH, bilirubin, assessment of tumour size
- Before each treatment: CBC and diff
- If clinically indicated: bilirubin

PREMEDICATIONS:
- Antiemetic protocol for moderate emetogenic chemotherapy protocols (see SCNAUSEA)

TREATMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>BCCA Administration Guideline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOXOrubicin</td>
<td>60 mg/m²</td>
<td>IV push</td>
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</table>

Repeat every 21 days x 2 to 3 cycles, then re-assess for response
Discontinue if no response.

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:
1. Hematological:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANC (x10^9/L)</th>
<th>Platelets (x10^9/L)</th>
<th>Dose (all drugs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 1.5</td>
<td>70 to 100</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 1</td>
<td>less than 70</td>
<td>delay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greater than 1.5 and greater than 100</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Hepatic dysfunction:** Dose modification required for DOXOrubicin. Refer to BCCA Cancer Drug Manual.

3. **Neutropenic fever:** Reduce dose by 25% if treated for neutropenic sepsis.

**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.

4. **Mucositis:** Severe mucositis may occur especially in patients previously radiated in the head and neck regions.

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

Date activated: 1 Apr 2012 (replacing ENAVD)

Date revised: 1 Apr 2013 (TALLman lettering formatted)

**References:**