

# BC Cancer Protocol Summary for Treatment of Limited Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer using Platinum and Oral Etoposide with Radiation Therapy

**Protocol Code** *LUSCPEPORT*  
**Tumour Group** *Lung*  
**Contact Physician** *Dr. Cheryl Ho*

## ELIGIBILITY:

Patients must have:

- Small cell lung cancer (SCLC)
  - Limited stage disease
- ECOG performance status 0 to 2
- Suitable candidate for thoracic radiation

Note:

- The intravenous formulation of etoposide should remain the preferred treatment option for the majority of patients as oral etoposide bioavailability is variable.
- For inpatients, use the intravenous formulation (See protocol LUSCPERT).

## EXCLUSIONS:

- ECOG performance status 3 or higher

## TESTS:

- Baseline: CBC & differential, platelets, creatinine, ALT, alkaline phosphatase, LDH, total bilirubin
- Before each cycle: CBC, differential, platelets, creatinine
- If clinically indicated: bilirubin

## PREMEDICATIONS:

- Antiemetic protocol for highly emetogenic chemotherapy (see protocol [SCNAUSEA](#)).

## TREATMENT:

Drug	Dose	BC Cancer Administration Guideline
CISplatin	75 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on Day 1 only	Prehydrate with NS 1000 mL over 1 hour, then give CISplatin IV in NS 500 mL with potassium chloride 20 mEq, magnesium sulfate 1 g, mannitol 30 g over 1 hour
etoposide*	200 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day on Days 1 to 3	PO

\* Etoposide is available as 50 mg capsules. Refer to Oral Etoposide Dispensing Table below.

**Oral Etoposide Dispensing Table:**

Daily Dose (mg)	Dispense As:	
	Morning Dose (mg)	Evening Dose (mg)
100	100	N/A
150	150	N/A
200	200	N/A
250	150	100
300	150	150
350	200	150
400	200	200
450	250	200
500	250	250
550	300	250
600	300	300

- **Usual plan for radiotherapy to start with the second cycle of chemotherapy, although radiotherapy may be started with later cycles dependent on clinical circumstances**
- **Repeat every 21 days x 4 to 6 cycles**
  - **May be given every 28 days at physician's discretion**
- Prophylactic co-trimoxazole DS one tablet po bid or levoFLOXacin 500 mg po daily x 10 days beginning 7 days post-chemotherapy should be considered for patients judged to be at high risk of neutropenic fever

**In cases of CISplatin toxicity or poorly functioning patients or age greater than 75:**

Drug	Dose	BC Cancer Administration Guidelines
CARBOplatin	AUC 5 DAY 1 only Dose = AUC x (GFR* +25)	IV in 100 to 250 mL NS over 30 minutes

\*GFR preferably from nuclear renogram, if not possible use:

$$\text{GFR} = \frac{N \times (140 - \text{age in years}) \times \text{wt (kg)}}{\text{serum creatinine (micromol/L)}} \quad N = 1.04 \text{ (women) or } 1.23 \text{ (men)}$$

The estimated GFR calculated using the Cockcroft-Gault equation should be capped at 125 mL/min when it is used to calculate the initial carboplatin dose. When a nuclear renogram is available, this clearance would take precedence.

**DOSE MODIFICATIONS:**

**1. Hematology:** for etoposide

ANC (X 10 <sup>9</sup> /L)		Platelets (x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	Dose
greater than or equal to 1.5	and	greater than or equal to 100	100%
1.0 to less than 1.5	or	75 to less than 100	50%
less than 1.0	or	less than 75	<b>Delay</b>

**2. Hepatic dysfunction:** for etoposide

Bilirubin (micromol/L)	Dose
less than 25	100%
25 to 50	50%
51 to 85	25%
greater than 85	<b>Delay</b>

### 3. Renal dysfunction:

#### For CISplatin

Calculated Cr Clearance (mL/min)	Dose
greater than or equal to 60	100%
45 to less than 60	80% CISplatin or go to CARBOplatin option
less than 45	Hold CISplatin or delay with additional IV fluids or go to CARBOplatin option

#### For etoposide

Calculated Cr Clearance (mL/min)	Dose
Greater than or equal to 30	100%
Less than 30	75%*

\*Initial dose modification to 75% should be considered if creatinine clearance is less than 30 mL/min. Subsequent dosing should be based on patient tolerance and clinical effect.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

1. **Hypersensitivity:** Hypersensitivity reactions are very rare with oral etoposide capsules, and have been reported for CISplatin. Refer to BC Cancer Hypersensitivity Guidelines.
2. **Gastrointestinal** side effects occur at a slightly higher incidence with oral etoposide administration compared to IV administration.
3. **Neutropenia:** Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated aggressively.
4. **Renal Toxicity:** Nephrotoxicity is common with CISplatin. Encourage oral hydration. Avoid nephrotoxic drugs such as aminoglycoside antibiotics.

**Contact Dr. Cheryl Ho or tumour group delegate at (604) 930-2098 or 1-800-523-2885 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.**

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. Murray N, Coy P, Pater JL, et al. Importance of timing for thoracic irradiation in the combined modality treatment of limited-stage small-cell lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group. J Clin Oncol 1993; 11: 336-344.
2. Hande K, Messenger M, Wagner J, et al. Inter- and inpatient variability in etoposide kinetics with oral and intravenous drug administration. Clin Cancer Res. 1999 Oct;5(10):2742-7.

3. Johnson DH, Ruckdeschel JC, Keller JH, et al. A randomized trial to compare intravenous and oral etoposide in combination with cisplatin for the treatment of small cell lung cancer. *Cancer*. 1991 Jan 1;67(1 Suppl):245-9.
4. Mellempgaard A, Hersby D, Chaudhary F, et al. Retrospective analysis to compare the efficacy of oral (O) vs. intravenous (IV) etoposide given in combination with carboplatin for small cell lung cancer (SCLC), extensive disease (ED). *J Clin Oncol*. 35:e20020.
5. Karachiwala H, Tilley D, Abdel-Rahman O, et al. Comparison of oral versus intravenous etoposide in the management of small-cell lung cancer; A real-world, population-based study. *Clin Respir J*. 2021 Jan;15(1):36-41.
6. Evans WK, Radwi A, Tomiak E, et al. Oral etoposide and carboplatin. Effective therapy for elderly patients with small cell lung cancer. *Am J Clin Oncol*. 1995 Apr;18(2):149-55.
7. Eek D, Krohe M, Mazar I, et al. Patient-reported preferences for oral versus intravenous administration for the treatment of cancer: a review of the literature. *Patient Prefer Adherence*. 2016 Aug 24;10:1609-21.