BC Cancer Protocol Summary for Treatment of Burkitt Lymphoma and Leukemia (ALL-L3) with Cyclophosphamide, vinCRIStine, DOXOrubicin, Methotrexate, Leucovorin (CODOX-M) and riTUXimab

**Protocol Code**  
LYCODOXMR

**Tumour Group**  
Leukemia/BMT

**Contact Physician**  
Dr. Kevin Song

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- All stages of newly diagnosed Burkitt lymphoma (formerly small non-cleaved Burkitt-type) and Burkitt leukemia (ALL-L3). This protocol is usually given before IVACR and is considered to be part A of the Magrath protocol. Risk categories defined as:
  
  **Low risk**
  
  - Stage I, II or III and
  - Bulk less than 5 cm and
  - LDH normal and
  - Not stage IV

  **High risk**
  
  - Stage IV or
  - Bulk greater than or equal to 5 cm or
  - LDH greater than normal

  riTUXimab must be used in combination with CODOX-M in order to be reimbursed by the BC Cancer.

**EXCLUSIONS:**

1. Serum Creatinine above 150 micromol/L or estimated creatinine clearance below 60 mL/min

   \[
   \text{CrCl (mL/min)} = \frac{\text{N} \times (140 - \text{age in years}) \times \text{wt (kg)}}{\text{serum creatinine (micromol/L)}}
   \]

   \(\text{N}=1.04\) for females, \(\text{N}=1.23\) for males

2. Pleural effusion, ascites, full extremity edema

3. AST, ALT, alkaline phosphatase or total bilirubin greater than twice upper limit of normal

**TESTS:**

- **Baseline (required before first treatment):** CBC & diff, platelets, creatinine, sodium, potassium, ALT, bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, GGT, uric acid, LDH, urine pH
- **Baseline (required, but results do not have to be available to proceed with first treatment; results must be checked before proceeding with cycle 2):** HIV, HBsAg, HBsAb, HBcAb, HCAb, CMV serology, HSV serology
- **Prior to each cycle:** CBC & diff, platelets, creatinine, sodium, potassium, ALT, bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, GGT, uric acid, LDH
- **Daily q am during treatment (required but results do not have to be available to proceed with treatment):** CBC & diff, platelets, creatinine, sodium, potassium
- **Twice weekly (Monday and Thursday):** ALT, bilirubin
- **Day 8:** ALT, bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, GGT
- **Daily q am starting day 13 (day of methotrexate = day 10):** methotrexate levels (until less than 0.1 micromol/L; note date and time of withdrawal on the specimen.)
- **Immediately pre-methotrexate and q6h:** urine pH

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Warning: The information contained in these documents is a statement of consensus of BC Cancer professionals regarding their views of currently accepted approaches to treatment. Any clinician seeking to apply or consult these documents is expected to use independent medical judgement in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine any patient’s care or treatment. Use of these documents is at your own risk and is subject to BC Cancer’s terms of use available at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/terms-of-use](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/terms-of-use).
PREMEDICATIONS:

For Day 1 & 2 CODOX-M portion:
- ondansetron 8 mg PO/IV pre-chemotherapy, then 8 mg PO/IV every 12 hours on days 1 and 2
- dexamethasone 12 mg PO pre-chemotherapy on days 1 and 2
- may consider alternative routine antiemetics regimens
  - netupitant-palonosetron 300 mg-0.5 mg PO pre-chemotherapy on Day 1
  - dexamethasone 12 mg PO pre-chemotherapy on days 1 and 2
- prochlorperazine 10 mg PO q 6 h prn on days 1 and 2
- metoclopramide 10 mg PO q 6 h prn on days 1 and 2
- dimenhydrinate 50 mg PO/IV q 6 h prn on days 1 and 2

For Day 8 riTUXimab portion:
- For intravenous infusion:
  - diphenhydramine 50 mg PO prior to riTUXimab IV and then q 4 h during the IV infusion, if the infusion exceeds 4 h
  - acetaminophen 650-975 mg PO prior to riTUXimab IV and then q 4 h during the IV infusion, if the infusion exceeds 4 h
- For subcutaneous injection:
  - diphenhydramine 50 mg PO prior to riTUXimab SC
  - acetaminophen 650-975 mg PO prior to riTUXimab SC

For Day 10 CODOX-M portion:
- ondansetron 8 mg PO/IV pre-chemotherapy
- prochlorperazine 10 mg PO after methotrexate infusion completed, followed by 10 mg PO q4h PRN

SUPPORT MEDICATIONS:
- furosemide 20 mg IV Q4H PRN Days 1-4 if output is less than 400 mL during a 4 hour period while patient is on IV
- Hyperhydration with NS with potassium chloride and magnesium sulfate from 0600h on Day 1 until 48 hours after last dose of cyclophosphamide
- furosemide 20 mg IV after completion of each dose of cyclophosphamide
- Prophylactic Antibiotics (start day 12)
  - fluconazole 400 mg PO DAILY
  - If HSV seropositive: valACyclovir 500 mg PO DAILY OR acyclovir 5 mg/kg IV q12h
- filgrastim (G-CSF) as per preprinted order; start on Day 13 and continue until ANC is greater than 1
- If HBsAg or HBcoreAb positive, start lamivUDine 100 mg/day PO for the duration of chemotherapy and for six months afterwards.
TREATMENT:
START TREATMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS OF DIAGNOSIS, EVEN IF STAGING IS INCOMPLETE.

Treatment should be administered as an inpatient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>BC Cancer Administration Guideline</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cyclophosphamide</td>
<td>800 mg/m² on days 1, 2</td>
<td>IV in 500 mL NS over 30 to 60min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vinCRISTine</td>
<td>1.4 mg/m² (max 2 mg) on days 1, 8</td>
<td>IV in 50 mL NS over 15 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOXOrubicin</td>
<td>50 mg/m² on day 1</td>
<td>IV push</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ritUXimab**†</td>
<td>375 mg/m² on day 8</td>
<td>IV in 500 mL NS over 3 to 8 h* (may divide dose equally into two 250 mL NS infusion bags to maintain 1 to 4 mg/mL concentration range).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>methotrexate</td>
<td>3000 mg/m² on day 10</td>
<td>IV in 1000 mL NS over 4 h, if urine pH greater than 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leucovorin</td>
<td>25 mg q6H (start on day 11)</td>
<td>Starting exactly 24 h after start of methotrexate infusion; IV for 4 doses, then PO until methotrexate level less than 0.1 micromol/L***.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cytarabine</td>
<td>50 mg IT on day 3</td>
<td>Via lumbar puncture or Ommaya ventricular reservoir; qs to 6 mL with preservative-free NS. Day 3 dose should only be given, if there are no blasts present in the peripheral blood and if platelets are greater than 50 x10⁹/L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filgrastim</td>
<td>less than 60 kg: 300 mcg</td>
<td>SC daily starting on day 13, until neutrophils greater than 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61 to 96 kg: 480 mcg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>greater than 96 kg: 600 mcg</td>
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Note: One staff physician signature is required. Orders written by other providers MUST be cosigned.

Low risk patients should have LYCODOXMR followed by LYIVACR (one full Magrath protocol) then a second cycle of LYCODOXMR. Recommended minimum of 21 days between each cycle.

High risk patients should have LYCODOXMR followed by LYIVACR then a second cycle of LYCODOXMR followed by LYIVACR (two full Magrath protocol). Recommended minimum of 21 days between each cycle.

A total of 8 doses of IT chemotherapy should be given for all patients during their complete treatment course which will include further cycles of chemotherapy and possible stem cell transplant.

*Start the initial infusion at 50 mg/h and, after 60 min, increase by 50 mg/h every 30 minutes until a rate of 400 mg/h is reached. For all subsequent treatments, infuse 50 mL (or 100 mL) (1/5 of total volume) of the dose over 30 minutes then infuse the remaining 200 mL (or 400 mL) (4/5) over 60 minutes (total infusion time = 90 minutes). Development of an allergic reaction may require a slower infusion rate. See hypersensitivity below.
** The risk of cytokine release syndrome is low but is increased when the peripheral blood lymphocyte count is greater than 30 to 50 $\times 10^9$ /L. While there is no requirement to withhold riTUXimab based on lymphocyte count, clinicians may wish to pre-medicate patients with high tumour burden with steroids prior to riTUXimab infusion or omit the riTUXimab from the first cycle of treatment.

† Patients must receive first dose by IV infusion (using the IV formulation) because the risk of reactions is highest with the first infusion. IV administration allows for better management of reactions by slowing or stopping the infusion.

‡ During treatment with subcutaneous riTUXimab, administer other subcutaneous drugs at alternative injection sites whenever possible.

*** Methotrexate must be given in a hospital, where rapid reporting of methotrexate levels is available. Leucovorin dose modifications commence 48 hours following the start of methotrexate infusion, based on that morning’s methotrexate level. Methotrexate levels are repeated q am and leucovorin dose is adjusted according to the following scheme and continued until methotrexate level less than 0.1 micromol/L:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methotrexate Level (micromol/L=10^{-6} mol/L)</th>
<th>Leucovorin Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>less than 0.1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.1 to 0.9</td>
<td>25 mg PO/IV q6h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 to 8.0</td>
<td>100 mg/m^2 IV q6h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greater than 8.0</td>
<td>1000 mg/m^2 IV q6h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patients must have creatinine clearance greater than 60 mL/min, as well as vigorous IV hydration and urine alkalinization to maintain urine pH above 7.

**START ALKALINIZING REGIMEN 4 TO 12 HOURS PRIOR TO METHOTREXATE:**

- Discontinue all other IV hydration before starting alkalinizing regimen.
- IV D5W with potassium chloride 20 mEq/L and sodium bicarbonate 150 mEq/L at 125 mL/h for at least 4 hours prior to methotrexate until urine pH is greater than 7. Hydration may be temporarily held during methotrexate infusion (per physician/nursing discretion). Continue hydration post-methotrexate infusion until methotrexate level is less than 0.1 micromol/L.
- Check urine pH before starting methotrexate. If pH less than 7, continue alkalinizing regimen until urine pH greater than 7 before starting methotrexate.
DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

1. **Hematologic Toxicity**: Cyclophosphamide and DOXOrubicin ONLY:
   For the first cycle of CODOX-M no adjustments are necessary for an abnormal hematology profile. The second cycle of CODOX-M should be given after hematological recovery (ANC greater than 1, platelets greater than $100 \times 10^9/L$) from the last chemotherapy cycle given.

2. **Renal dysfunction**: If GFR or creatinine clearance (CrCl) less than 60 mL/min, reversible causes of renal dysfunction should be treated and the patient reassessed for suitability for this treatment once renal function improves.
   Use the same renal function measure throughout the treatment course, i.e. if estimated GFR was used initially, subsequent dosing should be based on GFR and not CrCl.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methotrexate Only</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GFR or Creatinine Clearance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greater than 100 mL/minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 to 99.9 mL/minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 84.9 mL/minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 60 mL/minute</td>
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</tbody>
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If serum creatinine obtained after starting methotrexate is increased to greater than 50% above baseline increase leucovorin to 100 mg/m$^2$ IV q6h, until creatinine returns to normal and methotrexate level is less than 0.1 micromol/L.

3. **Mucositis**: Mucositis greater than or equal to grade 3 (painful erythema, edema or ulcers and cannot eat), reduce methotrexate to 80% or prolong routine rescue for 2 more days (unless abnormal methotrexate levels).

4. **Neurotoxicity**: vinCRIStine only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toxicity</th>
<th>Dose Modification</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dysesthesias, areflexia only</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal buttoning, writing</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor neuropathy, moderate</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor neuropathy, severe</td>
<td>Omit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Hepatotoxicity: DOXOrubicin only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bilirubin (mmol/L)</th>
<th>Dose Modification</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 to 35</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 85</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 85</td>
<td>Omit DOXOrubicin and no substitution is required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This adjustment is only necessary for the initial treatment. After the hyperbilirubinemia has resolved, adjustment is only necessary if overt jaundice re-occurs.

Methotrexate only: If either AST, ALT or bilirubin is greater than twice normal, consider omitting.

6. Cardiotoxicity: DOXOrubicin only: omit DOXOrubicin and do not replace.

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Neutropenia: Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated aggressively.
2. Third space fluids: Patients with clinically or radiologically detectable third space fluid (e.g., pleural effusion, ascites, full extremity pitting edema) should NOT be given high dose methotrexate.
3. Renal elimination: Patients with elevated serum creatinine or calculated creatinine clearance below 60 mL/min should NOT receive high dose methotrexate. Avoid concomitant use of drugs that may inhibit renal elimination of methotrexate such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), salicylates and sulfa drugs.
4. Hepatitis B Reactivation: All patients should be tested for HBsAg and HBcAb. If either test is positive, such patients should be treated with lamIVUDine during chemotherapy and for six months afterwards. The patients should also be monitored with frequent liver function tests and hepatitis B virus DNA at least every two months. If the hepatitis B virus DNA level rises during this monitoring, management should be reviewed with an appropriate specialist with experience managing hepatitis and consideration given to halting chemotherapy.
5. Hypersensitivity: riTUXimab can cause allergic type reactions during the IV infusion such as hypotension, wheezing, rash, flushing, alarm, pruritus, sneezing, cough, fever or faintness. Directly observe patient during treatment and monitor pulse, respiratory rate and blood pressure every 15 minutes until a stable infusion rate is reached, then hourly until 15 minutes after conclusion of the infusion. Because transient hypotension may occur during infusion, consider withholding antihypertensive medications 12 hours prior to riTUXimab infusion. If an allergic reaction occurs, stop the infusion and the physician in charge should determine a safe time and rate to resume the infusion. A reasonable guideline is as follows: after recovery of symptoms, restart riTUXimab infusion at one infusion rate below the rate at which the reaction occurred and continue with escalation of infusion rates on the appropriate schedule above. If the infusion must be stopped a second time, restart after clearance of symptoms, at one infusion rate lower and continue at that rate without further escalation. Fatal cytokine release syndrome can occur (see below). Please also refer to the BC Cancer Hypersensitivity Guidelines.
6. Fatal Cytokine Release Syndrome (0.04 to 0.07%) may occur within 24 hours of initiating riTUXimab infusion. It usually occurs within 1 to 2 hours of initiating the first infusion. Initially, it is characterized by severe dyspnea (often with bronchospasm and hypoxia) in addition to fever, chills, rigors, urticaria and angioedema. Pulmonary interstitial infiltrates or edema visible on chest x-ray may accompany acute respiratory failure. There may be features of tumour lysis syndrome such as hyperuricemia, hypocalcemia, acute renal failure and elevated LDH. For severe reactions, stop the infusion immediately and evaluate for tumour lysis syndrome and pulmonary infiltration. Aggressive symptomatic treatment is required. The infusion can be resumed at no more than one-half the previous rate once all symptoms have resolved, and laboratory values and chest x-ray findings have
normalized. The risk of cytokine release syndrome is low but is increased when the peripheral blood lymphocyte count is greater than 30 to 50 x 10^9/L. While there is no requirement to withhold riTUXimab based on lymphocyte count, clinicians may wish to pre-medicate patients with high tumour burden with steroids prior to riTUXimab infusion or omit the riTUXimab from the first cycle of treatment.

7. **Rare Severe Mucocutaneous Reactions**: (similar to Stevens-Johnson Syndrome) have been anecdotally reported with riTUXimab. If such a reaction occurs, riTUXimab should be discontinued.

8. **Gastrointestinal Obstruction or Perforation**: There have been rare reports of gastrointestinal obstruction or perforation, sometimes fatal, when riTUXimab is given in combination with other chemotherapy, occurring 1 to 12 weeks after treatment. Symptoms possibly indicative of such complications should be carefully investigated and appropriately treated.

9. **Possible interactions with proton pump inhibitors (e.g. pantoprazole, omeprazole, lansoprazole)** have been reported, resulting in elevated methotrexate levels and increased risk of methotrexate toxicity. Consider discontinuing proton pump inhibitors 1 day prior to methotrexate administration. If their use is required, closely monitor methotrexate levels and monitor for signs of methotrexate toxicity.

10. **Medication Safety**: riTUXimab is formulated differently for IV versus subcutaneous administration. Use caution during prescribing, product selection, preparation and administration. IV formulation is supplied as 10 mg/mL solution which must be diluted prior to administration. Subcutaneous formulation is supplied as a fixed dose of 1400 mg/11.7 mL ready-to-use solution which contains hyaluronidase to facilitate injection.

11. **Increased drug absorption by hyaluronidase**: be other subcutaneous medications should not be injected at the same site as subcutaneous riTUXimab. Increased systemic effects are unlikely to be clinically significant with topical applications of EMLA, hydrocortisone, or diphenhydramine.

### Supportive Care:

All patients should be hospitalized for LYCODOXMR. Consideration should be made to transfer the patient under the care of the Leukemia/BMT program of British Columbia. They may be discharged when they have recovered from the acute symptomatic side effects of treatment, are eating well, are off antibiotics and their granulocyte count is greater than 1 x 10^9/L.

1. **Venous Access**: All patients should have a triple lumen HICKMAN®-type central catheter for blood sampling and administration of medications and blood products.

2. **Blood Products**: Packed red blood cells should be given sufficiently often to keep the hemoglobin above 80 g/L. Platelet transfusions should be given to keep the platelet count above 10 x 10^9/L. All blood products should be irradiated before administration to prevent graft versus host disease.

3. **Cytomegalovirus (CMV)**: Patients who are serologically negative for CMV should receive CMV negative blood products, when being transfused (red cells or platelets).

4. **Antibiotics**:
   a. **Antibacterial**: Fever (greater than 38°C) will be thoroughly evaluated at any time it occurs and treated with antibiotics regardless of granulocyte count, if the treating oncologist judges that infection may be present. Fever while the granulocyte count is below 0.5 x 10^9/L must be treated with broad spectrum intravenous antibiotics which provide wide coverage of gram negative and gram positive bacteria. Several of the medications which patients on this protocol may be receiving have the potential to cause renal dysfunction, including furosemide, acyclovir, amphotericin B, aminoglycosides, and vancomycin. This potential should be remembered when anti-bacterial agents are chosen. Thus, use of aminoglycosides or vancomycin should be usually reserved for situations when no less nephrotoxic agent can be employed.
   b. **Antifungal**: Fluconazole 400 mg PO daily will be given prophylactically to all patients starting on day 12 and continued until neutrophil recovery.

5. **Herpes Virus Prophylaxis**: All patients with a positive herpes simplex virus (HSV) serologic titre or a history of previous cold sores should receive valACYclovir 500 mg PO daily (or acyclovir 5 mg/kg IV q12h) at least from day 12 to the day of recovery from mucositis.
Call Dr. Kevin Song or a member of the Leukemia/BMT tumour group at (604) 875-4863 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.

References: