

BC Cancer Protocol Summary for Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Malignant Melanoma Using High Dose Dacarbazine (DTIC)

Protocol Code

SMDTIC

Tumour Group

Melanoma

Contact Physician

Dr. Kenneth Wilson

ELIGIBILITY:

- Metastatic malignant melanoma
- Life expectancy greater than 12 weeks
- Performance status ECOG 0-2

EXCLUSIONS:

- Renal or hepatic dysfunction

TESTS:

- Baseline: CBC and differential, platelets, BUN, serum creatinine, [ALT](#), [Alk Phos](#), [GGT](#), [LDH](#), chest x-ray, CT scan, tumour measurements (excluding lesions only seen on chest x-ray and CT scan)
- Before each treatment: CBC and differential, platelets, BUN, serum creatinine, [ALT](#), [Alk Phos](#), [GGT](#), [LDH](#), tumour measurements
- Every 2nd treatment: chest x-ray, CT scan

PREMEDICATIONS:

- Antiemetic protocol for highly emetogenic chemotherapy protocols (see SCNAUSEA)

TREATMENT:

Drug	Dose	BC Cancer Administration Guideline
dacarbazine (DTIC)	1.1 g/m ²	IV in 500 to 1,000 mL NS or D5W over 1 to 2 hours * Protect the container from light during administration. * Do not use if the colour of the solution changed to pink or red.

Repeat every 21 days until stable disease for four treatments, or disease progression (greater than or equal to 50% increase), or intolerable side effects.

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

1. **Hematological**

ANC (x10⁹/L)		Platelets (x10⁹/L)	Dose
greater than 2	and	greater than 100	100%
1.5-2	or	70-100	80%
less than 1.5	or	less than 70	delay

2. **Neutropenic sepsis requiring hospital admission:** Give 80% of previous dose.

3. **Renal dysfunction:** Dose modification required for dacarbazine. Consult with contact physician. See also Precaution 3 (renal toxicity).

PRECAUTIONS:

1. **Neutropenia:** Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated aggressively.
2. **Vein Irritation:** Dacarbazine often causes pain during administration that usually responds to slowing the infusion rate.
3. **Renal Toxicity:** Nephrotoxicity may occur with dacarbazine. Avoid nephrotoxic drugs such as aminoglycoside. Consult with contact physician if baseline values double.
4. **Hepatic Toxicity:** Hepatic toxicity may occur with dacarbazine. Consult with contact physician if baseline values double.

Call Dr. Kenneth Wilson or tumour group delegate at (250) 519 5572 or 1-800-670-3322 local 5572 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.