BCCA Protocol Summary for Topical Therapy for Skin Cancer with PDT (Photodynamic Therapy)

**Protocol Code**  
SMPDT

**Tumour Group**  
Skin and Melanoma

**Contact Physician**  
Dr. Harvey Lui

**ELIGIBILITY:**
- **Actinic keratoses (AK), multiple** (patients who have difficulty to manage AKs, or patients with AKs who are prone to developing multiple in situ or invasive cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma [SCC], i.e. patient has a history of multiple in situ or invasive SCC)
- **Bowen’s disease** (in situ squamous cell carcinoma), multiple
- **Superficial basal cell carcinoma, multiple**
- **Low-risk small nodular basal cell carcinomas, multiple**

* Examples of patients with multiple skin tumors: excess sun exposure, immunosuppression (from any cause), cancer-prone genodermatoses (eg. nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome)

In exceptional cases, the following conditions will also be eligible for treatment as judged on a case by case basis:
- Superficial in situ cutaneous epidermal malignancies (e.g. Extramammary Paget's disease)
- **Only reimbursable when prescribed by physicians by physicians in the Skin Tumour Group within the Skin PDT Program of the BC Cancer Agency.**

**EXCLUSIONS:**
- Methyl aminolevulinate is contraindicated in patients with allergies to peanut or almond oil
- Photodynamic therapy with methyl aminolevulinate or aminolevulinic acid is contraindicated in patients with porphyria

**TESTS:**
- A skin biopsy is customarily (but not always) required to establish the diagnosis prior to treatment
TREATMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRUG</th>
<th>DOSE</th>
<th>BCCA Administration Guideline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methyl aminolevulinate (METVIX™) cream</td>
<td>One treatment session followed by a second treatment in 7-21 days.</td>
<td>To be done by Health Care Professional. Use Nitrile Gloves.</td>
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<td>(maximum of 2g per treatment session)</td>
<td>Note: Store in refrigerator. Stable 24 hours out of refrigerator.</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aminolevulinic acid (LEVULAN KERASTICK®)</td>
<td>One treatment session followed by a second treatment in 7-21 days.</td>
<td>To be done by Health Care Professional.</td>
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<td>for topical solution 20%</td>
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<td>Note: Once reconstituted, stable for 2 hours.</td>
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<td>Note: Store at room temperature.</td>
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1. Identification of lesions to be treated.
2. Gentle curettage of lesions to remove excess keratin.
3. Application of topical photosensitizer (METVIX™ or LEVULAN®), followed by occlusion with TEGADERM™ or equivalent dressing.
4. Patient to wait indoors for 3 hours.
6. Expose treatment site to red light from a light-emitting diode array, 37 J/cm² per lesion.
7. Discharge patient, and repeat treatment one to three weeks later to same sites.

PRECAUTIONS:
1. **Photosensitivity**: The treatment site will become photosensitive after application. Avoid exposure of the photosensitive treatment site to sunlight or bright indoor light for at least 48 hours.

Call Dr. Harvey Lui or tumour group delegate at (604) 877-6000 or 1-800-663-3333 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.

Date activated: 1 Jul 2010
Date revised: 1 Oct 2010 (Eligibility clarified)
References:

General:

Actinic keratoses:

Bowen’s disease:

Superficial basal cell carcinomas:

Nodular basal cell carcinomas:

Other neoplasms: