BC Cancer Protocol Summary for the Second-Line Treatment of Recurrent or Metastatic Merkel Cell Carcinoma Using Avelumab

Protocol Code: USMMCCAVE

Tumour Group: Skin and Melanoma

Contact Physician: Dr. Christopher Lee

ELIGIBILITY:
- Recurrent or metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma following progression of disease after first-line chemotherapy with SMMCCPE
- Patients are eligible to receive first-line if a contraindication to SMMCCPE exists
- ECOG 0 - 2
- Adequate hematologic and biochemical laboratory test results
- Access to a treatment centre with expertise to manage immune-mediated adverse reactions of avelumab
- BC Cancer Agency Compassionate Access Program (CAP) approval must be obtained

EXCLUSIONS:
- ECOG performance status > 2
- HIV positive
- Immunosuppression - use with cautions in patients with long term immunosuppressive therapy or systemic corticosteroids (Requiring more than 10 mg prednisONE/day or equivalent)
- Solid organ transplant or autoimmune disease
- Hematologic malignancy
- Clinically significant comorbidities such as active cardiovascular disease or inflammatory bowel disease

TESTS:
- Baseline: CBC & differential, platelets, creatinine, alkaline phosphatase, ALT, total bilirubin, LDH, sodium, potassium, TSH, morning serum cortisol, random glucose
- Before each treatment: CBC & differential, platelets, creatinine, alkaline phosphatase, ALT, total bilirubin, LDH, sodium, potassium, TSH, random glucose
- If clinically indicated: chest x-ray, CT scan, morning serum cortisol, lipase, serum or urine HCG (required for woman of child bearing potential if pregnancy suspected), Free T3 and Free T4, serum ACTH levels, testosterone, estradiol, FSH, LH, ECG, fasting blood glucose
- Weekly telephone nursing assessment for signs and symptoms of side effects while on treatment (Optional).

Warning: The information contained in these documents are 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/legal.htm
PREMEDICATIONS:
- **For first 4 cycles**: diphenhydrAMINE 50 mg IV in 50 mL NS over 20 minutes and acetaminophen 500 mg to 650 mg PO given 30 minutes prior to treatment
- If prior infusion reactions to avelumab:
  - diphenhydrAMINE 50 mg IV in 50 mL NS over 20 minutes, acetaminophen 500 mg to 650 mg PO, or other based on severity of reaction
- Antiemetics are not usually required.
- Antiemetic protocol for low emetogenicity (see SCNAUSEA).

TREATMENT:

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<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>BCCA Administration Guideline</th>
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<tr>
<td>avelumab</td>
<td>10 mg/kg</td>
<td>IV in 250 mL NS over 1 hour using a 0.2 micron in-line filter</td>
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- Repeat every 2 weeks until confirmed disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:
No dose reductions or escalations recommended. Toxicity managed by treatment delay and other measures (see SCIMMUNE protocol for Immune-mediated Adverse Reaction Management Guide).

PRECAUTIONS:
- **Serious immune-mediated reactions**: these can be severe to fatal and usually occur during the treatment course. They may include enterocolitis, intestinal perforation or hemorrhage, hepatitis, dermatitis, neuropathy, endocrinopathy, as well as toxicities in other organ systems. Early diagnosis and appropriate management are essential to minimize life-threatening complications (see SCIMMUNE protocol for Immune-mediated Adverse Reaction Management Guide).
- **Infusion-related reactions**: isolated cases of severe reaction have been reported. In case of a severe reaction, avelumab infusion should be discontinued and appropriate medical therapy administered. Patients with mild or moderate infusion reaction may receive avelumab with close monitoring. Premedications with acetaminophen and anti-histamine may be considered if there is a history of reaction.

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

References: