



Provincial Health Services Authority

## For the Patient: CNTEMOZ

Other Names: Treatment for Malignant Brain Tumours using Temozolomide

**CN = Central Nervous System**

**TEMOZ = Temozolomide**

### ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

#### What is this drug used for?

- Temozolomide is a drug given alone or with radiation therapy to treat certain cancers of the brain or central nervous system. It is a capsule that is taken by mouth.

#### How does this drug work?

- Temozolomide kills cancer cells by preventing their normal cell division and growth.

### INTENDED BENEFITS

- This therapy is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells in your body. It may improve your current symptoms, and delay or prevent the onset of new ones.
- It may take several treatments before your doctor can determine whether or not this treatment is helping.

### TREATMENT SUMMARY

#### How is this drug given?

- Temozolomide is a capsule taken by mouth usually as a single dose, once daily at bedtime. You may be given capsules of more than one strength to make the right dose. The BC Cancer Pharmacy may package these capsules in a blister pack to make it easier for you to take.
- Temozolomide is taken for five days in a row, followed by a 23 day rest period. This 28 day period (5 days of temozolomide + 23 days of rest) is called a “cycle”. The cycle is repeated from 6 to 24 times, depending on your diagnosis, but may be changed based on how the chemotherapy affects you.
- The calendar below outlines your treatment plan.

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
	1	
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment
		Week 4 → No Treatment

C Y C L E  2	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Temozolomide once daily at bedtime x 5 days (day 1 – 5) No treatment on day 6 or 7
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment
		Week 4 → No Treatment

C Y C L E  3	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Temozolomide once daily at bedtime x 5 days (day 1 – 5) No treatment on day 6 or 7
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment
		Week 4 → No Treatment

C Y C L E  4	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Temozolomide once daily at bedtime x 5 days (day 1 – 5) No treatment on day 6 or 7
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment
		Week 4 → No Treatment

C Y C L E  5	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Temozolomide once daily at bedtime x 5 days (day 1 – 5) No treatment on day 6 or 7
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment
		Week 4 → No Treatment

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Temozolomide once daily at bedtime x 5 days (day 1 – 5) No treatment on day 6 or 7
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment
		Week 4 → No Treatment

### What will happen when I get my drug?

- A blood test is done each cycle, the day before or the first day of each treatment. Another blood test is taken on Day 22 of your cycle. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on your blood counts and/or other side effects.
- You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea drugs which can be filled at your local community pharmacy. This medication is to be taken 30-45 minutes before the temozolomide to lessen the side effects of treatment. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely.

### What are the side effects of temozolomide, how often do they occur and how do I manage them?

- Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment. The pharmacist will review these with you when you first pick up your medication. The most common side effects include:
  - Effects on the blood cells leading to increased risk for infection and bleeding
  - Fatigue
  - Nausea
- Please refer to the patient information handout titled “**For the Patient: temozolomide**” for a complete list of possible side effects and their management. If you have not received a copy, please ask a nurse or pharmacist. It is also located on the BC Cancer website at <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/DrugIndexPt/Temozolomide.htm>.

### Medication interactions

- Some drugs may interact with temozolomide and you may need extra blood tests or your doses may need to be changed. Please refer to “**For the Patient: temozolomide**”.

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or in any symptoms are severe, contact:**

\_\_\_\_\_ at telephone number \_\_\_\_\_