BMTMM0301 is a new conditioning therapy protocol for autologous stem cell transplant using high dose melphalan (200 mg/m²). This dose has been shown to be less toxic and at least as effective as 8 Gy total body irradiation with melphalan 140 mg/m². Note that the protocol code for this regimen reflects the existing coding system of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program and hence does not conform to the general nomenclature of BCCA protocols.

A number of revised protocols are included in this issue, with minor modifications or clarifications. These include dose modifications for the gynecological protocol GOCXRADC, clarifications of laboratory tests and carboplatin dose calculations for several genitourinary protocols, carboplatin dose calculation and use of carboplatin as an alternative in two cisplatin-based lung protocols, and the clarifications of duration of treatments in two sarcoma protocols.

**Benefit Drug List**

The following new program has been funded by the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program effective 1 February, 2003:

**Thyrotropin alfa for thyroid cancer**

This is added as a Class II drug on the benefit list. A Class II form must be completed and submitted to the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program before the drug will be dispensed at a regional cancer centre or reimbursed to a community hospital. The current Benefit Drug List, Class II forms and Undesignated Indication Application forms are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Frequently Used Forms.

**List of New and Revised Protocols**

INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date, and last update date).
Protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols.

**CANCER MANAGEMENT MANUAL**

The Cancer Management Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca) under Health Professionals Info, Cancer Management Guidelines.

**PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE**

Pre-printed orders should always be checked with the most current BC Cancer Agency protocol summaries. The BC Cancer Agency Vancouver Centre has prepared chemotherapy pre-printed orders, which can be used as a guide for reference. An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

- **BMTMM0301** new: Conditioning therapy for autologous stem cell transplant using high dose melphalan in the treatment of multiple myeloma
- **UBRLAAACD** new: Treatment for locally advanced breast cancer using doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide followed by docetaxel
- **CNIME** revised (reference to cisplatin in Precautions deleted): Ifosfamide, mesna and etoposide in the treatment of recurrent brain tumours
- **GOCXRADC** revised (potassium chloride dose revised, ANC added to Dose Modifications): Treatment of high risk squamous cell carcinoma of cervix with concurrent cisplatin and radiation
- **UGUAJPG** revised (liver function tests clarified): Adjuvant therapy for urothelial carcinoma using cisplatin and gemcitabine
- **GUAVPG** revised (liver function tests clarified, carboplatin added as alternative): Palliative therapy for urothelial carcinoma using cisplatin and gemcitabine
- **GUSCPE** revised (calculations for carboplatin dose and GFR added): Therapy of genitourinary small cell tumors with a platin and etoposide
- **HNTSH** new: Radiiodine imaging in patients with thyroid cancer using thyrotropin alpha
- **ULUCISDOC** revised (serum creatinine added to Tests): First-line treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer with docetaxel (Taxotere®) and cisplatin
- **LUPE** revised (calculations for carboplatin dose and GFR added): Palliative therapy of selected solid tumours using cisplatin and etoposide
- **LUPESL** revised (carboplatin added as alternative to cisplatin): Treatment of limited stage small cell lung cancer (SCLC) with etoposide and cisplatin (EP) and early thoracic irradiation
- **SAAJA** revised (number of treatment cycles clarified): Doxorubicin for adjuvant use for patients with non-metastatic operable large high grade soft tissue sarcoma
- **USAAVGI** revised (duration of treatment): Treatment of advanced c-kit positive gastrointestinal stromal cell tumours (GIST's) using imatinib (Gleevec®)

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- **UGUTAXGEM** new: Palliative therapy for germ cell cancers using paclitaxel and gemcitabine
- **ULUCISDOC** new: First-line treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer with docetaxel (Taxotere®) and cisplatin
- **LYCHOP** revised (routine monitoring for dose increases): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone
- **LYCHOP-R** revised (routine monitoring for dose increases): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone and rituximab
- **LYGDP** new: Treatment of lymphoma with gemcitabine, dexamethasone and cisplatin
- **SAAJA** new: Doxorubicin for adjuvant use for patients with non-metastatic operable large high grade soft tissue sarcoma
- **SMAJIFN** new: Adjuvant therapy of high risk malignant melanoma with high dose α-2b interferon (HDIFN)

**PATIENT EDUCATION**

*Thyrotropin Alpha* (Thyrogen™) Patient information handout for recombinant thyrotropin alpha is now available.

*Mechlorethamine (Nitrogen Mustard)*

**Topical Application** Patient information handouts for nitrogen mustard solution and ointment have been revised to incorporate new instructions regarding cautions.

Patient information handouts for cancer drugs are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Drug Database, Drug Information for the Patient.

Patient information handouts for treatment protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Information for the Patient.

**CANCER DRUG MANUAL**

*Melphalan Monograph* has been revised to reflect the current stability data of diluted infusions.

The Cancer Drug Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca/edm/](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/edm/)).

Patient information handouts for cancer drugs are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Drug Database, Drug Index (Patient).

**PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES**

**Standing Orders for Specific Medications - Ambulatory Patients in the Systemic Program (Policy III-30)** has been replaced by the **Nursing Management of Patients Using General Orders Protocol (GOP).**

BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policies are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Policies and Procedures.

**NURSING UPDATE**

**Updating Website Information about Oncology Nursing Services in BC**

Our BCCA website provides us with an opportunity to increase our understanding of cancer chemotherapy services offered by nurses throughout the province. Two University of Victoria nursing students are able to support us with the process of identifying gaps and updating this information.

In the next 2 months, you may receive a telephone call asking for updated and general information about cancer nursing services provided in your center. We anticipate that this call will take no longer than 10 minutes. The information gathered will be entered into our website by March and will be readily accessible to all health care professionals. We thank you in advance for participating in this important process.

**LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE**

**Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual** is available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Patient/Public Info, Unconventional Therapies. The manual consists of 46 short monographs on the more commonly used unconventional cancer therapies (e.g., Essiac, vitamins, teas, shark cartilage) and includes tips for the patient and family on how unconventional therapies can be evaluated. For each therapy the manual provides proponent/advocate claims, as well as evidence-based evaluation/critique quotations from the literature.
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☐ Melphalan Monograph
Patient Education Handout (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)
☐ Thyrotropin Alpha  ☐ Mechlorethamine (Nitrogen Mustard) Topical Application

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☐ Filgrastim Usage Form (October 2002)
☐ Undesignated Indication Form (Nov 2002)
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