

For Health Professionals Who Care for Cancer Patients

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Resources and Contact Information

Editor's Choice

New Programs

Effective 01 June 2023, the BC Cancer Provincial Systemic Therapy Program has approved the following new treatment programs. The full details of these programs can be found on the BC Cancer website in the [Chemotherapy Protocols](#) section.

Breast

Pembrolizumab with Chemotherapy for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (BRAVPGC, BRAVPP, BRAVPPN)

— The BC Cancer Breast Tumour Group is implementing pembrolizumab with chemotherapy as first-line treatment for patients with locally recurrent inoperable or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) and PDL-1 combined positive score ≥ 10 . In the Keynote-355 phase III trial, the addition of pembrolizumab to chemotherapy was associated with increased overall survival (23.0 vs. 16.1 mos, hazard ratio [HR] 0.73) and progression-free survival (9.7 vs. 5.6 mos, HR 0.65).¹ Pembrolizumab was associated with manageable toxicities consistent with known safety profile and its addition to chemotherapy did not seem to affect the quality of life.

Genitourinary

Pembrolizumab for Adjuvant Renal Cell Carcinoma (GUAJPEM, GUAJPEM6) — The BC Cancer Genitourinary Tumour Group is introducing pembrolizumab as adjuvant therapy for patients with renal cell carcinoma (RCC) and intermediate-high or high risk of recurrence following nephrectomy, or nephrectomy with complete resection of metastatic lesions. In the KEYNOTE-564 phase III trial comparing to placebo, pembrolizumab was associated with increased disease-free survival (77.3% vs. 68.1% at 24 months, HR 0.68).^{2,3} Overall survival could not be determined due to immature data. Pembrolizumab was associated with manageable toxicities consistent with known safety profile.

Lung

Atezolizumab with Chemotherapy for Extensive-Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer (LUSCATPE) — The BC Cancer Lung Tumor Group is introducing atezolizumab with platinum (cisplatin or carboplatin) and etoposide as first-line treatment option for extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC). In the IMpower133 phase III trial, the addition of atezolizumab to carboplatin and etoposide chemotherapy was associated increased overall survival (12.3 vs. 10.3 mos HR 0.75) and progression-free survival (5.2 vs. 4.3 mos, HR 0.77).⁴

Leukemia

Asciminib for Philadelphia Chromosome-Positive Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (LKCMLA) — The BC Cancer Leukemia Tumour Group is introducing asciminib for patients with chronic phase Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+ CML) who have previously been treated with two or more tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs). In the ASCEMBL phase III trial comparing to bosutinib, asciminib was associated with increased major molecular response at 24 weeks (25.48% vs. 13.16%).⁵ Asciminib was also better tolerated than bosutinib, with less patients discontinuing treatments due to toxicities (5.8% vs. 21.2%).

References

1. Cortes J, Rugo HS, Cescon SI, et al. Pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy in advanced triple-negative breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2022;387:217-26.
2. Choueiri TK, Tomczak P, Park SH, et al. Adjuvant pembrolizumab after nephrectomy in renal-cell carcinoma (KEYNOTE-564). *N Engl J Med* 2021;385:683-694.
3. Powles T, Tomczak P, Park SH, et al. Pembrolizumab versus placebo as post-nephrectomy adjuvant therapy for clear cell renal cell carcinoma (KEYNOTE-564): 30-month follow-up analysis of a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2022;23:1133-44.
4. Horn L, Mansfield AS, Szczena A, et al. First-line atezolizumab plus chemotherapy in extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2018;379:2220-2229.
5. Rea D, Mauro MJ, Boquimpani C, et al. A phase 3, open-label, randomized study of asciminib, a STAMP inhibitor, vs bosutinib in CML after 2 or more prior TKIs. *Blood* 2021;138(21): 2031-2041

Cancer Drug Manual[®]

All BC Cancer Drug Manual[®] documents can be accessed from the [Cancer Drug Manual[®]](#) home page on the BC Cancer website.

Revised Documents

Asciminib Monograph

Dosage Guidelines: added new BC Cancer protocol LKCMLA; bolded and italicized BC Cancer standard dosing

Capecitabine Monograph

Contraindications/Cautions: updated information related to DPD deficiency and DPYD testing

Side Effects: updated paragraph for DPD deficiency

Fluorouracil Monograph

Contraindications/Cautions: updated information related to DPD deficiency and DPYD testing

Side Effects: updated paragraph for DPD deficiency

Trifluridine-tipiracil Monograph

Mechanism: added information regarding metabolism to differentiate from other fluoropyrimidines

Dexrazoxane Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart

New brand (Hikma): added US labelled dexrazoxane (manufacturer Thymoorgan Pharmazie GmbH brand; supplied by Hikma) to address the current shortage of Canadian-authorized dexrazoxane

Continuing Education

Family Practice Oncology Network Continuing Medical Education

The Family Practice Oncology Network (FPON) is pleased to announce the launch of the BC Cancer Primary Care Learning Session for **Lung Cancer**. There are now a total of 4 sessions available, with this session joining the existing **Colorectal Cancer**, **Breast Cancer**, and **Prostate Cancer** sessions. These interactive online learning sessions are created through partnership with the UBC Division of Continuing Professional Development and are designed to help primary care providers better support their patients with cancer. **However, anyone involved with patients receiving cancer care are invited to register and complete these eLearning sessions to better develop their understanding and expertise.**

These eLearning sessions cover best practices in screening, diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance through case studies and the inclusion of helpful resources.

Sessions are offered at **no charge** and are accredited at up to 1.0 Mainpro+ credit each.

Continuing Education

For more information and links to registration, visit the FPON Continuing Medical Education site:

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/networks/family-practice-oncology-network/continuing-medical-education#Primary--Care--Learning--Sessions>

Benefit Drug List

New Programs

Effective 01 June 2023, the following new treatment programs have been added to the BC Cancer [Benefit Drug List](#):

| Protocol Title | Protocol Code | Benefit Status |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using Pembrolizumab, Gemcitabine, and CARBOplatin | BRAVPGC | Class I |
| Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using Pembrolizumab with PACLitaxel | BRAVPP | Class I |
| Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using Pembrolizumab and PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) | BRAVPPN | Class I |
| Adjuvant Treatment of Resected Renal Cell Carcinoma using Pembrolizumab | GUAJPEM | Class I |
| Adjuvant Treatment of Resected Renal Cell Carcinoma using 6-Weekly Pembrolizumab | GUAJPEM6 | Class I |
| Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia using Asciminib | LKMLA | Class I |
| Treatment of Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) with Atezolizumab, Platinum and Etoposide | LUSCATPE | Class I |

Highlights of New & Revised Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts

BC Cancer Protocol Summaries, Provincial Pre-Printed Orders (PPPOs) and Patient Handouts are revised periodically. New, revised or deleted protocols, PPPOs and patient handouts for this month are listed below, with document revisions indicated in the respective columns. Protocol codes for treatment requiring BC Cancer Compassionate Access Program approval are prefixed with the letter **U**.

NEW Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (*new documents checked*)

| Code | Protocol Title | Protocol | PPPO | Handout |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BRAVPGC | Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using Pembrolizumab, Gemcitabine, and CARBOplatin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| BRAVPP | Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using Pembrolizumab with PACLitaxel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| BRAVPPN | Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using Pembrolizumab and PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GUAJPEM | Adjuvant Treatment of Resected Renal Cell Carcinoma using Pembrolizumab | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | -- |
| GUAJPEM6 | Adjuvant Treatment of Resected Renal Cell Carcinoma using 6-Weekly Pembrolizumab | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | -- |
| LKCMLA | Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia using Asciminib | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | -- |
| LUSCATPE | Treatment of Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) with Atezolizumab, Platinum and Etoposide | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (*revisions in respective columns*)

| Code | Protocol Title | Protocol | PPPO | Handout |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| BR Breast | | | | |
| BRAJPEM | Adjuvant Treatment of Resected Triple Negative Breast Cancer using Pembrolizumab | <i>eligibility updated</i> | -- | -- |
| GI Gastrointestinal | | | | |
| GIIRINALT | Palliative Chemotherapy of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Weekly Irinotecan | -- | <i>treatment days clarified</i> | -- |
| GIOCTLAR | Symptomatic Management of Functional Carcinoid and Neuroendocrine Tumors of the GI Tract using Octreotide Long Acting | <i>treatment duration clarified</i> | -- | -- |

REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts *(revisions in respective columns)*

| Code | Protocol Title | Protocol | PPPO | Handout |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------|---------|
| GO Gynecological | | | | |
| GOCABR | Alternative Treatment of Gynecological Malignancies using CARBOplatin and PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) | <i>eligibility clarified</i> | -- | -- |
| GOCABRBEV | Alternative Treatment of Gynecological Malignancies using Bevacizumab, CARBOplatin and PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) | <i>eligibility clarified</i> | -- | -- |
| GU Genitourinary | | | | |
| GUAVNIV | Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma Using Nivolumab | <i>eligibility updated and exclusions clarified</i> | -- | -- |
| GUAVNIV4 | Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma Using 4-Weekly Nivolumab | <i>eligibility updated and exclusions clarified</i> | -- | -- |
| GUAVPEMAX | Treatment of Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Using Pembrolizumab and aXitinib | <i>eligibility updated and exclusions clarified</i> | -- | -- |
| LK Leukemia | | | | |
| LKCMLB | Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Using Bosutinib | <i>hyperlink deleted from tests</i> | -- | -- |
| LKCMLD | Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia and Ph+ Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia using daSATinib | <i>hyperlink deleted from tests, funding algorithm removed</i> | -- | -- |
| LKCMLI | Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia and Ph+ Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Using iMATinib | <i>hyperlink deleted from tests</i> | -- | -- |
| LKCMLN | Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Using niLOTinib | <i>hyperlink deleted from tests</i> | -- | -- |
| ULKCMLP | Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia and Ph+ Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Using PONAtinib | <i>eligibility updated, exclusions reformatted, hyperlink deleted from tests</i> | -- | -- |
| LKGEMOZ | Treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia using Gemtuzumab Ozogamicin with Induction and Consolidation Chemotherapy | <i>references updated</i> | -- | -- |
| LU Lung | | | | |
| LUSCDURPE | Treatment of Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) with Durvalumab, Platinum and Etoposide | <i>eligibility revised</i> | -- | -- |
| SM Skin & Melanoma | | | | |

REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (*revisions in respective columns*)

| Code | Protocol Title | Protocol | PPPO | Handout |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------|------|---------|
| SMAVALIPNI | Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma using Alternative Dosing Regimen of Ipilimumab and Nivolumab | <i>eligibility updated</i> | -- | -- |
| SMAVIPNI | Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using Ipilimumab and Nivolumab | <i>eligibility updated</i> | -- | -- |

Resources and Contact Information

| Resource | Phone | Email / Toll Free / Fax |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Systemic Therapy Update: www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update | | |
| Systemic Therapy Update Editor | 604-877-6000 x 672649 | bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca |
| Oncology Drug Information | 604-877-6275 | druginfo@bccancer.bc.ca |
| Cancer Drug Manual Editor | 250-519-5500 x 693742 | nbady@bccancer.bc.ca |
| Pharmacy Oncology Certification | 250-712-3900 x 686820 | rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca |
| Nurse Educators | 604-877-6000 x 672638 | nursing@bccancer.bc.ca |
| CAP – Compassionate Access Program | 604-877-6277 | cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca fax 604-708-2026 |
| OSCAR – Online System for Cancer Drugs Adjudication and Reimbursement | 888-355-0355 | oscar@bccancer.bc.ca fax 604-708-2051 |
| Library/Cancer Information | 604-675-8003 | toll free 888-675-8001 x 8003 requests@bccancer.bc.ca |
| Library Document Delivery | 604-675-8002 | requests@bccancer.bc.ca |
| Pharmacy Professional Practice | 604-877-6000 x 672247 | m1in@bccancer.bc.ca |
| Professional Practice, Nursing | 604-877-6000 x 672623 | BCcancerPPNAdmin@ehcnet.phsa.ca |
| Provincial Systemic Therapy Program | 604-877-6000 x 672247 | m1in@bccancer.bc.ca |
| BC Cancer – Abbotsford | 604-851-4710 | toll free 877-547-3777 |
| BC Cancer – Kelowna | 250-712-3900 | toll free 888-563-7773 |
| BC Cancer – Prince George | 250-645-7300 | toll free 855-775-7300 |
| BC Cancer – Surrey | 604-930-2098 | toll free 800-523-2885 |
| BC Cancer – Vancouver | 604-877-6000 | toll free 800-663-3333 |
| BC Cancer – Victoria | 250-519-5500 | toll free 800-670-3322 |
| Community Oncology Network (CON) sites: To update your contact information, please contact: bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca | | |

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