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FAX request form and IN TOUCH phone list are provided if additional information is needed.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS

A new **intravenous (IV) lidocaine** protocol (SCPAINLI) has been developed by the Pain and Symptom Management/Palliative Care Program for the management of **severe pain** syndrome unresponsive to standard therapy, particularly as acute therapy for severe neuropathic pain.

Systemic lidocaine therapy has been used to control intractable neuropathic<sup>1</sup> and severe pain in terminally ill patients.<sup>2</sup> It is thought that lidocaine alleviates neuropathic pain by suppressing the spontaneous ectopic discharges of the injured nerve without blocking normal nerve conduction.

"Care of the Person Receiving a Lidocaine Infusion", BCCA Nursing Practice Reference L-50, is available by contacting [nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca) or calling 1-800-663-3333, local 2638.

For more information, please contact Dr. Pippa Hawley (VC) and Dr. Gillian Fyles (CSI).

## References

1. Mao J, Chen LL. Systemic lidocaine for neuropathic pain relief. *Pain* 2000;87(1):7-17.
2. Ferrini R. Parenteral lidocaine for severe intractable pain in six hospice patients continued at home. *J Palliat Med* 2000;3(2):193-200.

## LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS

**INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries** revised monthly (include tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version). Protocol codes for treatments requiring "Undesignated Indication" approval prior to use are prefixed with the letter U.

- **GUVIEP** revised (mesna dosing times clarified): Nonseminoma consolidation/salvage protocol for germ cell cancer using vinblastine, cisplatin, ifosfamide and mesna
- **GUVIP2** revised (mesna dosing times clarified): Nonseminoma consolidation/salvage protocol (synonyms: GU-88-02) (using etoposide, cisplatin, ifosfamide, mesna)
- **LUPE** revised (administration sequence clarified): Palliative therapy of selected solid tumours using cisplatin and etoposide
- **SCPAINLI** new: Extreme pain therapy using parenteral lidocaine

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

## BENEFIT DRUG LIST

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](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under [Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Frequently Used Forms](#).

## **CANCER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

The Cancer Management Guidelines are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://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 of the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

- **BMTMM0301** revised (melphalan dose modifications for renal dysfunction): Conditioning therapy for autologous stem cell transplant using high dose melphalan in the treatment of multiple myeloma
- **LUNAVP** revised (liver function tests and bilirubin standardized): Palliative therapy of non-small cell lung cancer using cisplatin and vinorelbine
- **LUVIN** revised (liver function tests and bilirubin standardized): Treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with vinorelbine in elderly patients

## **PATIENT EDUCATION**

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, Cancer Drug Manual, Drug Information for the Patient](#). For treatment protocol specific information, go to the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under [Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Information for the Patient](#).

## **DRUG UPDATE**

**Bicalutamide (Casodex®) 150 mg** Health Canada has withdrawn its approval for bicalutamide 150-mg/day monotherapy for patients with localised prostate cancer. Previously, this therapy was approved for patients as an alternative to watchful waiting. Clinicians should discontinue the therapy in patients currently treated with bicalutamide

150 mg/day. (Note: bicalutamide 150 mg/day monotherapy has never been recommended by the BCCA Genitourinary Tumor Group in the standard treatment of any stage of prostate cancer.)

The decision to withdraw this approval was based on data from a planned second analysis of the Early Prostate Cancer trial program. In patients otherwise managed by watchful waiting, there was a trend towards accelerated deaths at a median follow-up of 5.4 years, with 196 (25.2%) deaths vs. 174 (20.5%) deaths, hazard ratio = 1.25 (95% CI 1.00-1.50).<sup>1</sup> Other analyses have previously shown that bicalutamide 150 mg/day was associated with poorer survival compared to castration in locally advanced<sup>1</sup> and metastatic patients.<sup>2</sup> Neither of these are Health Canada approved indications.

The current decision by Health Canada does not affect metastatic prostate cancer patients taking bicalutamide **50 mg per day**, which is reimbursable as a BCCA class II benefit drug when used to prevent LHRH agonist-induced flare phenomenon in patients intolerant of flutamide. For more details on the Health Canada decision, please refer to the "Important Drug Safety Information" from AstraZeneca dated 18 August 2003.<sup>1</sup>

### Reference

1. Borkowski K. Casodex® 150: Health Canada mandated important new safety information (Letter). Mississauga, Ontario: AstraZeneca; 18 August 2003.
2. Tyrrell CJ, Kaisary AV, Iversen P, et al. A randomised comparison of Casodex (bicalutamide) 150 mg monotherapy versus castration in the treatment of metastatic and locally advanced prostate cancer. *Eur Urol* 1998;33:447-56.

## **CANCER DRUG MANUAL**

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

## NURSING PRACTICE

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### Moving Ahead with Consistent Approaches to Symptom Management

The nursing group at BCCA is working together to produce timely and accurate information to assist you in the management of your patients' symptoms. What we have planned is a series of what we are calling "Just in Time" (JIT) information sheets on specific cancer-related symptoms. The information will be short, evidence-based, and lead you towards further reading or resources if your interests or patients' needs take you there. We will include a self-test with each new information sheet, so that you can determine your comfort with the new knowledge.

The first symptom we will review is breathlessness. We hope to launch our efforts in the early fall, and will follow each month through until next summer (10 symptoms in all). You will be hearing more about these information sheets in future issues of Systemic Therapy Update.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call or e-mail Ann Syme, Provincial Leader, Pain and Symptom Management/Palliative Care at [asyme@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:asyme@bccancer.bc.ca) or (250) 5195608.

Submitted by:

Judy Oliver

BCCA Education Resource Nurse

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### More on Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs

In the last edition you read about the expectations that Workers' Compensation Board of BC (WCB) has for recording your potential exposure to cytotoxic drugs. We referred you to the WCB documents that articulate this clearly, and also provided you with access to a useful form (Record of Exposure to Cytotoxic Drugs) for capturing this information.

The BCCA policies for safe handling of cytotoxic drugs are located on our website at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Systemic+Therapy+Policies.htm](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Systemic+Therapy+Policies.htm). See [Policies V-10](#), [V-20](#) and [V-30](#). These policies describe our safe handling practices at BCCA and are based on WCB regulations. We hope that they will give you direction if you are in the process of developing your own policies. BCCA however is not

responsible for enforcing or monitoring the safe handling practices of staff in other health care facilities.

The WCB is a useful resource to those of you who are trying to ensure that the practices in your organization are safe. The WCB website is at [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com).

## PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

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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.

## 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.

This manual is currently being revised and the Fourth Edition will be published in the near future.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

**British Columbia Cancer Agency Annual Cancer Conference 2003** This year's conference will be held from November 27 to 29, 2003 at The Fairmont Vancouver Hotel in Vancouver.

The **Partners in Cancer Care** meeting will be held on Thursday, November 27. The meeting will focus on *The Evolving Regional, Provincial and BC Cancer Agency Collaboration in Planning and Delivery of Cancer Care*, with representation from health professionals who care for cancer patients throughout British Columbia.

The focus of the **Clinical-Scientific** meetings on Friday and Saturday will be on "**Risk Reduction in Cancer Incidence**". This is open to all healthcare professionals and is an academic evidence-based exploration of new scientific insights that hold potential to advance cancer care.

The **Provincial Oncology Professionals** education and business meetings will be held on all three days of the conference for the following disciplines:

### November 27

- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Pathology
- Psychosocial Oncology

### November 28

- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Psychosocial Oncology

### November 29

- Family Practice
- Pharmacy
- Pediatric Oncology
- Oral Oncology /Dentistry
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiation Therapy
- Surgical Oncology

**Call for Abstracts** Poster Presentations **Deadline for submission is October 17, 2003.** Details on abstract submission can be found on "Annual Cancer Conference 2003" section on our website: [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)

For details about the conference, click on the link: <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ACC2003> or call (604) 877-6098 local 2744.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Welcome to new members to the Editorial Board!

**Johanna den Duyf** has held the position of Regional Systemic Therapy and Community Leader for the Vancouver Island Centre for six years. In this role, she is responsible for the systemic therapy process of care within the regional centre and cancer service delivery in the community. Prior to this, Johanna worked as a registered nurse and later as a Nurse Manager at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre in Ontario. Johanna has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, as well as a Master's degree in Leadership.

**Laurel Kovacic** became Chair of the BCCA Provincial Pharmacy Professional Practice Council (P4C) on April 1, 2003 and has been the Regional Pharmacy Professional Practice Leader (PPL) at the BCCA - Centre for the Southern Interior in Kelowna since March 1998. Prior to joining the BCCA, she was a staff pharmacist at the Kelowna General Hospital for almost ten years and was the manager of the Pharmacy at Kootenay Lake Hospital in Nelson before that. Laurel has a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (UBC 1984), a Hospital Pharmacy Residency (1985) and has completed Canadian Healthcare Association programs in Departmental Management and Quality Management prior to taking on the PPL position with the agency. She is currently enrolled in the External Pharm D program at the University of Washington in Seattle.

### Editorial Review Board

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BC Cancer Agency	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
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Vancouver Centre (VC)	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Vancouver Island Centre (VIC)	(250) 519-5500	Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322

## BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE REQUEST FORM

**FAX (604) 877-0585**

[bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca)

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<a href="#">Patient Education Handout</a> : (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a> )			
Pre-printed Orders:			
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Protocol Summaries: (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a> )			
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