

# BC Cancer Protocol Summary for Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using PACLitaxel NAB

**Protocol Code:** BRAVABR

**Tumour Group:** Breast

**Contact Physician:** BR Systemic Therapy

## ELIGIBILITY:

### Patients must have:

- Metastatic breast cancer in the first, second, or third line setting

### Patients should have:

- ECOG performance status 0 to 2
- Greater than 3-month life expectancy
- Adequate hematological, hepatic and renal function

## EXCLUSIONS:

### Patients must not have:

- Progression on prior taxane therapy
- Pregnant or breastfeeding status
- Severe hepatic dysfunction contraindicating PACLitaxel NAB
- Greater than or equal to Grade 2 sensory or motor neuropathy

## TESTS:

- Baseline: CBC & Diff, total bilirubin, ALT, GGT, LDH, alkaline phosphatase, creatinine
- Before each treatment: CBC & Diff, total bilirubin, ALT, creatinine
- If clinically indicated: GGT, alkaline phosphatase, urea

## PREMEDICATIONS:

- Additional anti-emetics not usually required.

**TREATMENT:**

Drug	Dose	BC Cancer Administration Guideline
PACLitaxel NAB	260 mg/m <sup>2</sup> *	IV over 30 minutes**

\* Select dose per Dose Banding Table (appendix)

\*\*In empty sterile bags and tubing with 15 micron filter; no specific material required for bag or tubing

Repeat every 21 days for 6 cycles. Discontinue if no response after 2 cycles. If patient still receiving benefit after 6 cycles, further 2 cycles may be given.

**DOSE MODIFICATIONS:**

**1. Hematological**

ANC (x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L)		Platelets (x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	Dose
Greater than or equal to 1.5	and	Greater than or equal to 100	100% (260 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )
1.0 to less than 1.5	and	Greater than or equal to 100	<b>220 mg/m<sup>2</sup></b>
Less than 1.0	or	Less than 100	Delay until ANC greater than or equal to 1.5 and platelets greater than or equal to 100 then consider giving <b>220 mg/m<sup>2</sup></b>

	1 <sup>st</sup> Occurrence	2 <sup>nd</sup> Occurrence
Febrile Neutropenia	Delay until recovery (ANC greater than or equal to 1.5 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L and platelets greater than or equal to 100 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L), then dose reduce to <b>220 mg/m<sup>2</sup>**</b>	Delay until recovery (ANC greater than or equal to 1.5 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L and platelets greater than or equal to 100 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L), then dose reduce to <b>180 mg/m<sup>2</sup>**</b>

\*\*Dose reductions should be maintained for subsequent cycles and not re-escalated

## 2. Hepatic Dysfunction

ALT or AST		Total bilirubin	PACLitaxel NAB
Less than or equal to 10 x ULN	and	Greater than 1 to less than or equal to 1.5 x ULN	100%
Less than or equal to 10 x ULN	and/or	Greater than 1.5 to less than or equal to 5 x ULN	80%*
Greater than 10 x ULN	or	Greater than 5 x ULN	Hold

\*may re-escalate dose if hepatic function normalizes and reduced dose is tolerated for at least 2 cycles

ULN = upper limit of normal

## 3. Sensory Neuropathy

Grade	Toxicity	Dose – 1 <sup>st</sup> Occurrence	Dose – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Occurrence
1	Asymptomatic; loss of deep tendon reflexes or paresthesia (including tingling) but not interfering with function	Maintain dose	Maintain dose
2	Sensory alteration or paresthesia (including tingling) but not interfering with function, but not interfering with ADL	Maintain dose	Maintain dose
3	Sensory alteration or paresthesia interfering with ADL	Hold treatment until resolved to Grade 2, then reduce dose to 220 mg/m <sup>2</sup> **	Hold treatment until resolved to Grade 2, then reduce dose to 180 mg/m <sup>2</sup> **
4	Disabling	Hold treatment until resolved to Grade 2, then reduce dose to 220 mg/m <sup>2</sup> **	Hold treatment until resolved to Grade 2, then reduce dose to 180 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ** or discontinue further therapy

\*\*Dose reductions should be maintained for subsequent cycles and not re-escalated.

4. **Arthralgia and/or myalgia:** If arthralgia and/or myalgia of Grade 2 (moderate) or higher is not relieved by adequate doses of NSAIDs or acetaminophen with codeine (e.g., TYLENOL #3), a limited number of studies report a possible therapeutic benefit using:

- predniSONE 10 mg PO BID for 5 days starting 24 hours post-PACLitaxel NAB
- Gabapentin 300 mg PO on day before chemotherapy, 300 mg BID on treatment day, then 300 mg TID for 7 to 10 days

If arthralgia and/or myalgia persist, reduce subsequent PACLitaxel NAB doses to 220 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

#### PRECAUTIONS:

1. An albumin form of PACLitaxel may substantially affect a drug's functional properties relative to those of drug in solution. **Do not** substitute with or for other PACLitaxel formulations.
2. **Extravasation:** PACLitaxel NAB causes pain and may, rarely, cause tissue necrosis if extravasated. Refer to BC Cancer Extravasation Guidelines.
3. **Neutropenia:** Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated aggressively.
4. **Renal Dysfunction:** No adjustment required for mild to moderate renal impairment. PACLitaxel NAB has not been studied in patients with creatinine clearance less than 30 mL/min.
5. PACLitaxel NAB is metabolized by CYP2C8 and CYP3A4; caution should be exercised when administering with drugs which are CYP2C8 or CYP3A4 inducers or inhibitors.
6. Cardiac toxicity has been reported rarely while patients receive PACLitaxel NAB. Severe cardiovascular events (3%), including chest pain, cardiac arrest, supraventricular tachycardia, edema, thrombosis, pulmonary thromboembolism, pulmonary emboli, and hypertension.
7. Theoretical risk of viral disease transmission, due to human albumin component, is extremely remote.

**Contact the BR Systemic Therapy physician at your regional cancer centre or the BR Systemic Therapy Chair with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.**

#### References:

1. Gradishar WJ, et al. Phase III Trial of nanoparticle albumin-bound paclitaxel compared with polyethylated castor oil-based paclitaxel in women with breast cancer J Clin Oncol 2005;23:7794-7803
2. Abraxis Oncology. ABRAXANE® product monograph. Richmond Hill, Ontario; 26 June 2006.
3. Celgene Inc. ABRAXANE® product monograph. Mississauga, ON; 06 August 2020.

## Appendix. Dose Bands

### PACLitaxel NAB DOSE BANDING TABLE

Ordered Dose (mg)		Rounded dose (mg)
From:	To:	
Less than 96		Pharmacy prepares specific dose
96	104.49	100
104.5	108.49	105
108.5	115.49	110
115.5	125.49	120
125.5	135.49	130
135.5	145.49	140
145.5	155.49	150
155.5	165.49	160
165.5	177.49	170
177.5	190.49	185
190.5	210.49	200
210.5	230.49	220
230.5	250.49	240
250.5	270.49	260
270.5	286.49	275
286.5	314.49	300
314.5	329.49	315
329.5	344.49	330
344.5	362.49	345
362.5	388.49	370
388.5	419.49	400
419.5	439.49	420
439.5	459.49	440
459.5	479.49	460
479.5	499.49	480
499.5	524.49	500
524.5	566.49	540
566.5	596.49	580
596.5	630.49	600
630.5	683.49	650
More than 683.49		Pharmacy prepares specific dose