



## For Health Professionals Who Care For Cancer Patients

### Inside This Issue:

- **Editor's Choice** – Drug Update: Mitomycin and BCG Shortage BCCA Website: New Website Is Coming
- **Cancer Drug Manual** – Revised: Etoposide, nab-Paclitaxel
- **Communities Oncology Network** – Reminder: OSCAR Submission Deadline 10 April 2015
- **List of New and Revised Protocols, Provincial Pre-Printed Orders and Patient Handouts** – Revised: UGIFFOXB, GIFOLFOX, LYCODOXR, UMYLENMTN
- **Website Resources and Contact Information**

### EDITOR'S CHOICE

#### DRUG UPDATE – Shortage of Mitomycin and Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) Vaccine

The ongoing shortage of BCG vaccine (see January issue of Systemic Therapy Update) has led to a temporary shortage of mitomycin (Teva), which has been used as an alternative intravesical agent. Shortage of mitomycin is expected to last until mid-May 2015. In addition to being used as an intravesical agent for bladder cancer, mitomycin is also used in chemoradiotherapy for anal cancer.

#### Temporary Access to US Supply of Mitomycin

Hospitals can request mitomycin (Accord) from the US via Health Canada's Special Access Programme (SAP) from **2 March** until **mid-May** on a case-by-case basis. SAP will accept requests however notification of decision will be effective 2 March. Requests should be faxed in the usual manner and every effort will be made by SAP to process them within 24 hours of receipt. As the US supply is very limited, Health Canada advises that requests should outline when and where alternatives have failed or are considered inappropriate. Once a request is complete and the clinical rationale deemed acceptable, a letter of Authorization will be issued to the manufacturer and copied to the requesting practitioner. The BC Cancer Agency will continue to follow up with Health Canada SAP regarding any additional special reporting that may be required.

#### Update on BCG Vaccine Shortage

Based on the current intermittent supplies and its weekly usage at all the health authorities, BCG vaccine is reasonably stocked and it should be preferentially used where available. An allocation of supply has been made on the week of 23 February, with another supply expected on the week of 23 March. Merck is in the process of restoring the manufacturing process to its normal capacity by the end of 2015.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### Alternative intravesical agents

Mitomycin is the alternative intravesical agent of choice and supplies should be conserved for electromotive mitomycin (if equipment is available) and for patients intolerant to BCG. If neither BCG nor mitomycin are available, other alternative agents include anthracyclines (epirubicin, doxorubicin), gemcitabine, and docetaxel (see table below). All these agents are reimbursed by BCCA for this indication during the BCG and mitomycin shortages.

<i>Preference</i>	<i>Intravesical agents</i>	<i>Dose*</i>	<i>Protocol code</i>
1.	Epirubicin <sup>1,2</sup>	<i>Single post-op dose:</i> 50 mg in 50 mL NS <i>Induction:</i> 50 mg in 50 mL NS weekly x 6 weeks <i>Maintenance:</i> 50 mg in 50 mL NS monthly x 10 months	GUNOS
2.	Doxorubicin <sup>3</sup>	<i>Induction:</i> 50 mg in 50 mL NS weekly x 4 weeks <i>Maintenance:</i> 50 mg in 50 mL NS monthly x 12 months	GUNOS
3.	Gemcitabine <sup>4,5</sup>	<i>Induction:</i> 2000 mg in 50 mL NS weekly x 6 weeks <i>Maintenance:</i> 2000 mg in 50 mL NS monthly x 10 months	GUNOS
4.	Docetaxel <sup>6</sup>	<i>Induction:</i> 75 mg in 100 mL NS weekly x 6 weeks <i>Maintenance:</i> 75 mg in 100 mL NS monthly x 10 months	GUNOS

\* intravesically via a catheter with a dwell time of 1-2 hours with the patient changing positions every 15 minutes

### **References:**

1. van der Meijden APM, et al. Intravesical instillation of epirubicin, BCG and BCG plus isoniazid for intermediate and high risk Ta, T1 papillary carcinoma of the bladder. *J Urol* 2001;166:476.
2. Peter Black, MD Personal communication. BCCA Genitorurinary Tumour Group; 2015.
3. Pfizer Canada. Adriamycin®PFS Product Monograph. Kirkland QC. August 22, 2014
4. Jones G, et al. Intravesical gemcitabine for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2012; 1:009294.
5. Addeo R, et al. Randomized phase III trial on gemcitabine versus mitomycin in recurrent superficial bladder cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2010;28:543.
6. Barlow LJ, et al. Long-term survival outcomes with intravesical docetaxel for recurrent non-muscle invasive bladder cancer after previous BCG therapy. *J Urol* 2013;189:834.

## BCCA WEBSITE

**New BCCA Website** – This will be updated and upgraded in late March. The new website comes with a new design that should be easier to read and navigate. It is more mobile-friendly for smartphones and tablets.

### Best viewed on modern browsers

The new website is best viewed on Google Chrome or Internet Explorer (IE, version 8 or higher). Most health authorities have one or both of these browser versions available. At the BCCA centres, Google Chrome should be available on most computers but may not have been activated. This icon may be on the desktop or listed under “Programs”.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE



Please check on the computers you use most often to ensure that Google Chrome is available. If you cannot find it on your computer, please contact the computer [Service Desk](#).

More details about the new website are available at: [www.bccancer.bc.ca/ABCCA/WebsiteUpgrade](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ABCCA/WebsiteUpgrade).

## CANCER DRUG MANUAL

### HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES

**Etoposide** monograph and the Chemotherapy Preparation Chart have been updated to include the preparation and administration of etoposide phosphate. This product is only available via the Health Canada Special Access Programme. It does not contain the excipient polysorbate 80 found in the regular etoposide formulation. Therefore, it is less likely to cause infusion reaction hypersensitivity.

#### Other changes

- *Nab-Paclitaxel*: minor clarification of the types of IV bags acceptable for preparation in the monograph and the Chemotherapy Preparation Chart

## COMMUNITIES ONCOLOGY NETWORK

### REMINDER: OSCAR SUBMISSION DEADLINE 10 APRIL 2014

The 2014/15 fiscal year will end on Tuesday, 31 March 2015. This brings with it tight deadlines which must be met for external reporting to the Ministry of Health and the Office of the Comptroller General. To meet these deadlines, all claims for drug reimbursement for the fiscal year must be invoiced by 11:59 pm on Friday, 10 April 2015 via OSCAR (Online System for Cancer drugs Adjudication and Reimbursement). Any claims invoiced after that date will not be eligible for reimbursement. For more information, please contact [oscar@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:oscar@bccancer.bc.ca).

## LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PATIENT HANDOUTS

BC Cancer Agency 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. Protocol codes for treatments requiring BCCA Compassionate Access Program approval are prefixed with the letter “U”.

REVISED PROTOCOLS, PPPOs AND PATIENT HANDOUTS (AFFECTED DOCUMENTS ARE CHECKED):					
CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
UGIFFOXB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Removal of paragraph on calcium and magnesium therapy for oxaliplatin neuropathy</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Oxaliplatin, Fluorouracil, Leucovorin, and Bevacizumab
GIFOLFOX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Removal of paragraph on calcium and magnesium therapy for oxaliplatin neuropathy</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Oxaliplatin, Fluorouracil, and Leucovorin
LYCODOXMR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Doxorubicin administration clarified</i>	Treatment of Burkitt’s Lymphoma and Leukemia with Cyclophosphamide, vinCRISine, DOXOrubicin, Methotrexate, Leucovorin and riTUXimab
UMYLENMTN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Treatment duration clarified, minor typo corrected</i>	Maintenance Therapy of Multiple Myeloma Using Lenalidomide

## WEBSITE RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEBSITE RESOURCES	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Systemic Therapy Update	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate</a>
Reimbursement & Forms: Benefit Drug List, Class II, Compassionate Access Program	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms</a>
Cancer Drug Manual	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm">www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm</a>
Cancer Management Guidelines	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines">www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines</a>
Cancer Chemotherapy Protocols, Pre-printed Orders, Protocol Patient Handouts	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols">www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols</a>
Systemic Therapy Program Policies	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies</a>
CON Pharmacy Educators	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/Pharmacy/ContactUs.htm">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/Pharmacy/ContactUs.htm</a>

CONTACT INFORMATION	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
Systemic Therapy Update Editor			bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program	604-877-6000 x 672247		mclin@bccancer.bc.ca
To update the contact information of any CON sites, please contact:			bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
Oncology Drug Information	604.877.6275		druginfo@bccancer.bc.ca
Education Resource Nurse	604.877.6000 x 672638		nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca
Library/Cancer Information	604.675.8003 Toll Free 888.675.8001 x 8003		requests@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Professional Practice	250. 519.5574		jkippen@bccancer.bc.ca
Nursing Professional Practice	604.877.6000 x 672623		ilundie@bccancer.bc.ca
OSCAR	888.355.0355	604.708.2051	oscar@bccancer.bc.ca
Compassionate Access Program (CAP)	604.877.6277	604.708.2026	cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Chemotherapy Certification	250.712.3900 x 686741		rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca
BCCA-Abbotsford Centre	604.851.4710 Toll Free 877.547.3777		
BCCA-Centre for the North	250.645.7300 Toll Free 888.775.7300		
BCCA-Fraser Valley Centre	604.930.2098 Toll Free 800.523.2885		
BCCA-Sindi Ahluwalia Hawkins Centre for the Southern Interior	250.712.3900 Toll Free 888.563.7773		
BCCA-Vancouver Centre	604.877.6000 Toll Free 800.663.3333		
BCCA-Vancouver Island Centre	250.519.5500 Toll Free 800.670.3322		

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