



BC Cancer Agency

Systemic Therapy Update

Volume 5, Number 2

for health professionals who care for cancer patients

February 2002

Available on website www.bccancer.bc.ca

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- **INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries** revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last

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

SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE

INDEX to the Systemic Therapy Update is available for the year 2001, 2000, 1999 and 1998. These indices are available on the H-drive for the regional cancer centres, our website, and fax or email.

BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The current Benefit Drug List and Class II forms are available on the website www.bccancer.bc.ca.

PROTOCOL UPDATE

Protocols by Drugs Index A cross-referenced index lists the BC Cancer Agency benefit drugs with their corresponding protocols. This index can be obtained via H-drive at regional cancer centres or Fax-back as listed at the end of the Update.

Protocol codes for treatments requiring “Undesignated Indication” approval prior to use are prefixed with the letter **U**.

revision date and version). These revisions will be effective 1 February, 2002.

- **GUBEP** revised (etoposide and cisplatin infusion time): Bleomycin, etoposide, cisplatin for nonseminoma germ cell cancers
- **GUEP** revised (etoposide infusion time): Etoposide-cisplatin protocol for germ cell cancers
- **LYCHOP-R** revised (eligibility and rituximab scheduling): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone and rituximab
- **LYFLU** revised (hepatitis B warning): Treatment of low grade lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukemia with fludarabine

Protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/ccp/.

CANCER MANAGEMENT MANUAL

The Cancer Management Manual is available on BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/cmm/.

PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE

Pre-printed orders should always be checked with the most current BC Cancer Agency protocol summaries. The Vancouver Cancer Centre has prepared the following chemotherapy pre-printed orders, which can be used as a guide for reference:

- **BRAVDOC** revised (Indication for use clarified to be consistent with protocol): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using docetaxel (Taxotere®)
- **GIFFAD** revised (premeds, appointments): Adjuvant therapy for stage III and high risk stage II colon cancer using leucovorin and fluorouracil
- **GIRALT** revised (premeds, appointments): Palliative therapy for unresectable or metastatic colorectal cancer using raltitrexed (Tomudex®)

An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

DRUG UPDATE

Docetaxel A new formulation of docetaxel (Taxotere®) is now available and differs from the previous formulation in the following:

1. Stability of concentrate for injection: unopened vials are stable at room temperature and shipped non-refrigerated.
2. Mixing instruction: premix solution is to gently rotated for 45 seconds.
3. Stability of infusion solution: diluted solution is stable for 4 hours.

For more details, please refer to the letter sent by Aventis in December 2001 (Taxotere®: new storage and handling conditions).

Mitoxantrone Until further notice, all CON pharmacies should bill BC Cancer Agency for full vials of the Faulding mitoxantrone 20 mg product to recover the cost of any amounts of medication wasted. For example, if 22 mg is dispensed, CON pharmacies will be reimbursed for two 20 mg vials.

Zoledronic acid is a new biphosphonate currently licensed for the treatment of malignancy-related hypercalcemia. It is not a BC Cancer Agency benefit drug. For more details on the use of zoledronic acid in the treatment of hypercalcemia, please refer to the BCCA protocol SCHYPCAL.

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

The Cancer Drug Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm/.

PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policies are available at h:\everyone\systemic\prov\chemo\policies on the H-drive at the regional cancer centres and on www.bccancer.bc.ca/ccp/appendices.shtml in the BC Cancer Agency website.

LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE

Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/uct/. 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 by evidence-based evaluation/critique quotations from the literature.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

British Columbia Oncology Nursing Group (BCONG) Annual Conference will be held on 13/14 April 2002, at the Executive Inn Richmond, BC. This year's theme is "Tough Decisions in Tough Times" and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Sally Thorne, Professor and Director, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia. For more details, please contact Tanya Hughes at (604) 877-6098 ext. 2241, or email thughes@bccancer.bc.ca.

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Vancouver Island Cancer Centre (VICC)	(250) 519-5500	Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE ACCESS

BULLETIN UPDATES	LOCATION
Pre-Printed Orders	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Orders\VCC
Index of Pre-Printed Orders	Index.doc
	BRAVDOC
	GIFFAD
	GIRALT
Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\tumour site"
Index of Protocol Summaries	Index_NT or Index_W6
	GUBEP
	LYCHOP-R
	GUEP
	LYFLU
Reimbursement	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs
Benefit Drug List (1 February 2001)	BenefitList.doc
Class 2 Form (1 February 2001)	Class2.doc
Filgrastim Usage Form (1 June 2001)	GCSF_form.doc

For easy access, double-click your systemic chemo icon.

We appreciate your comments. Write us at bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE FAX REQUEST FORM

FAX (604) 877-0585

bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

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FOR URGENT REQUESTS PLEASE CALL (604) 877-6098 LOCAL 2247

OR TOLL-FREE IN BC 1-800-663-3333 LOCAL 2247

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION VIA:

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Attn:

UPDATES Please Fax-Back information below:

<input type="checkbox"/> All items	
Pre-Printed Orders:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVDOC	<input type="checkbox"/> GIFFAD
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Pre-Printed Orders	<input type="checkbox"/> GIRALT
Protocol Summaries: (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GUBEP	<input type="checkbox"/> LYCHOP-R
<input type="checkbox"/> GUEP	<input type="checkbox"/> LYFLU
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Protocol Summaries (current month)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reimbursement (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Drug List (01 February 2001)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Form (01 February 2001)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Filgrastim Usage Form (01 June 2001)	
Systemic Therapy Update Index (also available on our website www.bccancer.bc.ca)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2001	