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

## PROTOCOL UPDATE

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

- INDEX to BCCA Protocol Summaries revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version)
- ANTIEM-A deleted (replaced by SCNAUSEA): Antiemetics for moderately emetogenic chemotherapy containing cyclophosphamide < 350 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- ANTIEM-B deleted (replaced by SCNAUSEA): Antiemetics for moderately emetogenic chemotherapy containing cyclophosphamide > 350 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- UBRAVTR revised (eligibility criteria revised): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab
- CNCCV new (replaces CNVCD2): Adjuvant lomustine, cisplatin and vincristine in adult high-risk medulloblastoma or other primitive neuroectodermal tumour
- UCNIME new: Ifosfamide, mesna and etoposide in the treatment of recurrent brain tumours
- CNVCD2 deleted (replaced by CNCCV): Adjuvant therapy with teniposide, cisplatin, and lomustine for patients with primitive neuroectodermal tumour
- GIFUA revised (rounding off fluorouracil dose): Combined modality curative therapy for carcinoma of the anal canal using mitomycin, fluorouracil and radiation therapy
- GIFUC revised (rounding off fluorouracil dose): Palliative therapy for gastric cancer using fluorouracil and cisplatin
- GOOVMHI deleted (replaced by GOOVCATM): No visible residual epithelial ovarian cancer using cisplatin and etoposide
- GOSMCC2 revised (reformatted and arthralgia/myalgia management added): treatment of small cell carcinoma of cervix using paclitaxel, cisplatin, etoposide and carboplatin with radiation (GO 95 02)
- GUBCG revised (complete revision): BCG therapy in bladder cancer
- GUKIFN revised (dose and schedule changed): Alpha-interferon (a-IFN) for advanced renal cell carcinoma
- HNF deleted (replaced by HNFUFA): Therapy for recurrent head and neck cancer using fluorouracil
- HNFUFA new (replaces HNF): 5-Fluorouracil and leucovorin for recurrent head and neck cancer
- HNPE new: Intensive cisplatin and etoposide chemotherapy for recurrent and metastatic head and neck cancer
- SAAJADIC revised (CXR every 3 months replacing every 3 treatments): Doxorubicin

(Adriamycin®) and dacarbazine (DTIC) program for patients with soft tissue sarcoma

- SCHYPCAL revised (pamidronate infusion rate changed): Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of malignancy related hypercalcemia

### PATIENT HANDOUTS

**Rituximab** This is an anti-CD20 antibody used in the treatment of some lymphoma patients. It is currently available in Canada only through the Special Access Program.

### DRUG UPDATE

**Diethylstilbestrol (DES)** The manufacturer Roberts is unable to supply either the 1 mg or 0.1 mg tablets until January 2000. Possibilities of obtaining a special supply of the 1 mg tablets and alternative management policies are currently being explored (see also Update July/August 1999).

#### Granisetron Pharmacare Authorisation

Effective 1 November, 1999, Pharmacare has pre-approved any prescriptions for granisetron (Kytril®) written by physicians with College Specialties M26 (medical oncology) and M55 (radiation oncology). The authorisation is loaded into the PharmaNet and assigned to the prescribers under their practitioner College ID numbers. Smith Kline Beecham, the manufacturer, indicates that granisetron can be obtained from local wholesalers within 24 hours during the initial stocking up of the retail pharmacies. Currently, granisetron is not available at the BCCA pharmacies. More details on the use of granisetron can be found in the BCCA antiemetic protocol SCNAUSEA.

**Mithramycin (plicamycin)** The manufacturer Pfizer cannot give an estimate of when the current shortage will be resolved. However, mithramycin is commercially available in the US from Bayer and urgent supply can be obtained from Bayer Canada (1-800-622-2937) through the Special Access Program.

### NURSING PRACTICE TIPS

**Tympanic Membrane Thermometers** BCCA no longer recommends the use of ear thermometers

due to the potential for inaccurate readings. Patients receiving chemotherapy are recommended to use oral thermometers at home and that a temperature of over 38°C in the handout pertains to a reading of the oral thermometer.

#### Filgrastim (G-CSF, Neupogen®)

After consultation with the BCCA Pharmacy Group and a search of the literature and information from the manufacturer in relation to hypersensitivity reactions, the Nursing Practice Committee now recommends that the first dose of filgrastim to be given within a health care facility and the patient remains for 1 hour following this dose. In general, it is reasonable to keep patients for 1 hour following the first dose of any biologic response modifier. Monitoring of gene therapy, which is currently still investigational, should be followed as specified in the clinical trial protocol.

**Goserelin (Zoladex®) injections** A recent survey by the Fraser Valley Cancer Centre radiation nurses found no support for the need of lidocaine prior to goserelin depot (Zoladex LA®) injections. Consequently, as of 1<sup>st</sup> of August the Nursing Practice Committee recommends the following:

1. New patients receiving goserelin injection will not be offered lidocaine pre-injection. Those who cannot tolerate the discomfort may be offered EMLA cream.
2. Patients currently receiving lidocaine pre-injection may choose to stop or continue with it, or to use EMLA cream instead.

### PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM

**Chemotherapy Extravasation Policy** (Patient Care Policy III-20) This has been revised with a number of modifications including the treatment of paclitaxel extravasation and the general procedure for the extravasation of a vesicant.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

#### Communities Oncology Network AGM

Just a reminder that this will be held on the 12 and 13 (Friday and Saturday) of November 1999 at the Delta Pacific Resort in Richmond. The Friday program will include presentations on octreotide, the Provincial Cancer Program, patient information exchange, and funding for non-radiation cancer centres. The Saturday program will be devoted to

the biology and therapeutics of hematologic malignancies and lymphomas.

If your centre has not yet received their invitations, please contact Jack Chritchley at (604) 877 6183 or Barb Fiddler at (604) 877 6000 # 2744.

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## Editorial Review Board

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## BCCA SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE FAX REQUEST FORM

FAX (604) 877-0585

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|                          | Patient Handouts:                          |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Undesignated Drug Request Form (01 Sep 99) |

## RADIATION CANCER CENTRE ACCESS

BULLETIN UPDATES	LOCATION
Patient Handouts:	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ
Rituximab	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ\Rituximab Handout.doc
Index of Preprinted Orders	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\orders\index.doc
Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol
H:\Protocol\breast\ubravtr.doc	
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H:\Protocol\SupportiveCare\schypcal.doc	
H:\Protocol\SupportiveCare\schypcal.xls	
H:\Protocol\SupportiveCare\scnausea.doc	
Index of Protocol Summaries	H:\Protocol\Index\Index_NT or Index_W6
Reimbursement	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs
Benefit Drug List	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs\Benefit.doc
Class 2 Form	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs\Class2.doc
Prevention and management of extravasation of chemotherapy	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\policies\III_PatientCare\III-20.doc

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

We appreciate your comments. Write us at [bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca)