

## For the Patient: LUAVDC

Other Names: Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Cisplatin and Docetaxel

**LU = LU**ng

**AV = AdV**anced

**DC = Docetaxel, Cisplatin**

### **ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

#### **What are these drugs used for?**

LUAVDC is an intravenous (through the vein) drug treatment for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. The goal of this treatment is to help control or shrink the cancer and some of the symptoms caused by it.

Cisplatin and docetaxel are offered to people who have good kidney function and a good performance status. Performance status is a measure of how well a person is able to perform their usual daily activities.

#### **How do these drugs work?**

Cisplatin is an anticancer drug that works by *preventing* the synthesis of DNA, RNA and proteins that are needed for cancer cells to divide.

Docetaxel is an anticancer drug that works by *interrupting* the dividing and multiplying of cancer cells, and by encouraging the death of cancer cells.

### **INTENDED BENEFITS**

This treatment is being given to destroy and/or slow down the growth of cancer cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay or prevent new symptoms from starting. This chemotherapy treatment can help with controlling some of the symptoms the cancer may be causing, such as pain, coughing, wheezing, difficulty swallowing, weight loss and fatigue. Research has shown that patients may live longer after receiving chemotherapy treatment.

### **LUAVDC TREATMENT SUMMARY**

#### **How are these drugs given?**

- Your treatment plan consists of 4-6 chemotherapy “cycles”. Each cycle lasts 3 weeks (21 days).
- For each cycle, you will have the two medications given to you intravenously (through the vein) on Day 1.
  - Docetaxel is given first, and is given intravenously over one hour (60 minutes).
  - You will then be given extra fluids intravenously for one hour (60 minutes) before cisplatin. This is to help flush out your kidneys.
  - Cisplatin is given last, and is given intravenously over one hour (60 minutes).

### What will happen when I get my drugs?

- A blood test is done within one month of starting treatment.
- A blood test is also done before Day 1 of each cycle.
- The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on your blood test results and/or other side effects.
- Your very first treatment will take longer than other treatments because a nurse will be reviewing the possible side effects of your chemotherapy plan and will discuss with you how to manage them. *It is a good idea to bring someone with you to your first chemotherapy appointment.*
- You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea medications (to be filled at your regular pharmacy). Please bring your anti-nausea medications with you for each treatment. Your nurse will tell you when to take the anti-nausea medication. You also need to take your anti-nausea drugs at home after therapy. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it once it happens, so follow directions closely.
- You will also be given a prescription for **dexamethasone**, to help prevent nausea, fluid retention and allergic reactions. Fill this at your regular pharmacy as well.
  - It is important to take dexamethasone exactly as directed or you may not be able to have your treatment. On treatment days, it is especially important to take the morning dose before your treatment.
  - You must take 3 doses of dexamethasone before your treatment. Start taking it the day before your treatment and continue taking it twice a day for at least 3 days.
  - Always take dexamethasone with food.

### **LUAVDC TREATMENT PROTOCOL**

**Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Cycle 1:**

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
<b>Blood Test Docetaxel, Prehydration &amp; Cisplatin</b>	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo
Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14
No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo
Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20	Day 21
No Chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo	No chemo

**This 21-day cycle will repeat 3-5 more times.**

## **CHEMOTHERAPY SIDE EFFECTS AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Are there any risks?**

- Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. The ones listed below are particularly important for you to be aware of.

<b>SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS</b>	<b>How common is it?</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT</b>
Your <b>white blood cells</b> may decrease 8 days after your treatment. They usually return to normal within 3 weeks. White blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, <b>you are at greater risk of having an infection.</b>	Very Common	To help prevent infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Take care of your skin and mouth by gently washing regularly.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>• Call your doctor <b>immediately</b> at the first sign of an <b>infection</b> such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough or burning when you pass urine.</li> </ul>
Your <b>platelets</b> may decrease during or after your treatment. Platelets help to make your blood clot when you hurt yourself. <b>You may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.</b>	Common	To help prevent bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself.</li> <li>• Clean your nose by blowing gently, do not pick your nose.</li> <li>• Avoid constipation.</li> <li>• Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene.</li> <li>• Avoid taking ASA (eg: Aspirin®) or Ibuprofen (eg: Advil®), <i>unless prescribed by your doctor.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Allergic reactions</b> to docetaxel may occur. Signs of an allergic reaction are flushing, rash, dizziness, swelling or breathing problems.	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take your <b>dexamethasone</b> tablets as directed by your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This is usually taken twice a day with food (breakfast and supper) starting the day before your treatment.</li> <li>• Your nurse will check your heart rate (pulse) and blood pressure, if needed.</li> <li>• Tell your nurse or doctor <b>immediately</b> if you have any sign of an allergic reaction.</li> </ul>
Docetaxel and cisplatin <b>burn</b> if leaked under the skin.	Rare	Tell your nurse <b>immediately</b> if you feel pain, burning, stinging, or any other change while the drugs are being given.

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS	How Common Is It?	MANAGEMENT
<b>Nausea and vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment and may last for 24 hours.	Very Common	<p>You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it once it has happened, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of liquids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>“Food Choices to Control Nausea”</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Be sure to let your doctor know if you have nausea or vomiting later than 24 hours after your treatment.</p>
<b>Tiredness</b> or lack of energy may occur.	Very Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>“Your Bank of Energy Savings: How People with Cancer can Handle Fatigue”</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> is common and may begin within a few days or weeks of treatment. Your hair may thin or you may become totally bald. Your scalp may feel tender. You may lose hair on your face and body. In most cases, your hair will grow back once your chemotherapy treatments are over and sometimes between treatments. Rarely, hair may not grow back for more than two years. Color and texture may change.	Very Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush.</li> <li>• Care should be taken with use of hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms.</li> <li>• Protect your scalp with a hat, scarf or wig in cold weather. Some extended health plans will pay part of the cost of a wig.</li> <li>• Cover your head or apply sunblock on sunny days.</li> <li>• Apply mineral oil to your scalp to reduce itching.</li> <li>• If you lose your eyelashes and eyebrows, protect your eyes from dust and grit with a broad-rimmed hat and glasses.</li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b> may occur.	Common	<p>To help diarrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of liquids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>“Coping with Diarrhea”</i>.</li> </ul>

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS	How Common Is It?	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed in your vein within 1-2 days after treatment. This may extend all the way up the arm. Sometimes pain may occur where the cancer is located.</p>	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sore mouth</b> may occur a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat. <b>Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</b></p>	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste.</li> <li>• Make a mouthwash with ½ teaspoon baking soda or salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day.</li> <li>• Try soft, bland foods like puddings, milkshakes and cream soups.</li> <li>• Avoid spicy, crunchy or acidic food, and very hot or cold foods.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you are having difficulty eating or drinking due to pain.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Numbness, tingling or burning of the fingers or toes, or a change in the way you walk</b> may occur. These changes will slowly return to normal once your treatments are over.</p>	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot or cold.</li> <li>• Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, or picking up small objects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fluid retention</b> may occur. Signs of extra fluid build-up are swelling of feet, hands or belly; breathing problems; cough or rapid weight gain.</p>	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take your <b>dexamethasone</b> tablets as directed by your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.</li> <li>• Tell your doctor at your next visit.</li> <li>• Elevate your feet when sitting.</li> <li>• Avoid tight clothing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rash</b> may occur, mainly on the feet and hands, but also on the arms, face or chest. The rash will generally clear by the time of the next treatment.</p>	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply a moisturizer to dry skin several times a day.</li> <li>• Keep the area clean to avoid infections.</li> </ul>

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS	How Common Is It?	MANAGEMENT
<b>Muscle or joint pain</b> may occur a few days after your treatment. It usually lasts 4-7 days.	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take acetaminophen (eg, TYLENOL®) for mild to moderate pain.</li> </ul>
<b>Nail changes</b> such as change in color may occur. Rarely, nails will loosen or fall off, or the nailbeds will be painful.	Uncommon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be given frozen gloves to wear on your hands during your treatment to help prevent nail changes.</li> <li>• Take acetaminophen (eg, TYLENOL®) every 3-4 hours if nails are painful.</li> </ul>
<b>Fever</b> may occur shortly after treatment with docetaxel. Fever should last no longer than 24 hours.	Uncommon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take acetaminophen (eg, TYLENOL®) every 3-4 hours.</li> <li>• Fever which occurs more than 48 hours after treatment may be the sign of an infection. See details above.</li> </ul>

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PATIENT**

### **What other drugs can interact with LUAVDC?**

- Other drugs such as some antibiotics given by vein (eg: tobramycin, vancomycin), furosemide (LASIX®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®), ethacrynic acid (EDECIN®), pyridoxine (Vitamin B6), cyclosporine, ketoconazole and erythromycin may interact with LUAVDC. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or other drugs as you may need extra blood tests, your dose may need to be changed or your treatment may need to be held for a few days.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new prescription or non-prescription drugs.
- If you are admitted to hospital for intravenous antibiotics, be sure that the doctor treating you knows you are on cisplatin.

### **Other important things to know:**

- Cisplatin can cause changes in kidney function, but this is not frequent with the doses used in this type of treatment. It is important that you are well-hydrated before and after treatment.
- Sometimes, the nerve which allows you to hear can be affected by cisplatin. This could result in you experiencing “tinnitus” (ringing in the ears) or a change in your hearing. Report any of these problems to your doctor and/or nurse.
- The drinking of alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of this treatment.
- This treatment may cause sterility in men and menopause in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before starting treatment.
- This treatment may damage sperm and may cause harm to the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use birth control while you are undergoing treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- Tell all doctors or dentists you see that you are being treated with cisplatin and docetaxel before you receive treatment of any form.

### **SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer); chills, cough, pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine or pinpoint red spots on skin.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling or breathing problems.
- Signs of a **blood clot** such as tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain or shortness of breath.
- Signs of **bowel perforation** such as new pain, tenderness or acute cramping and bloating in your abdomen.
- **Seizures** or **loss of consciousness**.

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:**

- **Muscle weakness.**
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Uncontrolled **nausea, vomiting** or diarrhea.
- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **fluid retention** such as shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, bothersome swelling of feet or lower legs.
- **Trouble in walking.**

**CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE TO BOTHER YOU:**

- Easy bruising or bleeding.
- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, constipation or diarrhea.
- Signs of anemia such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.
- Skin rash or itching.
- Ringing in your ears or hearing problems.
- Numbness or tingling in feet or hands or painful leg cramps.

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ at telephone number \_\_\_\_\_