BCCA Protocol Summary for Palliative Therapy for Advanced Breast Cancer Using Megestrol

Protocol Code: *BRAVMEG*

Tumour Group: *Breast*

Contact Physician: *Dr. Susan Ellard*

ELIGIBILITY:
- Hormonal therapy for advanced breast cancer.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:
- Patients with a history of hypertension, congestive heart failure (LVEF less than 45%) or other significant heart disease

TESTS: None required.

TREATMENT:
- Megestrol 160 mg po once daily until evidence of progression.

PRECAUTIONS:
1. **Thromboembolism:** Megestrol is associated with an increased risk of thromboembolism.
2. **Hypercalcemia** may occur with bone metastases and may require aggressive treatment (see supportive care protocol SCHYPCAL).
3. **Fluid retention** may be of concern for patients with epilepsy, migraine, asthma, cardiac or renal dysfunction.
4. **Glucose intolerance** may occur with megestrol. Close monitoring is advised for patients with pre-existing glucose intolerance or diabetes.
5. **Adrenal insufficiency** may occur shortly after megestrol is discontinued and may require gradual dose tapering.

Contact Dr. Susan Ellard or tumour group delegate at (250) 712-3900 or 1-888-563-7773 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.

Date Formalized: 01 December 2002
Date Revised: 01 May 2009 (unsafe abbreviations and symbols replaced, physician contact revised)

Reference:

Buzdar AU, Jonat W, Howell A, Jones SE et al. Anastrozole versus megestrol acetate in the treatment of postmenopausal women with advanced breast carcinoma: results of a survival update based on a combined analysis of data from two mature phase III trials. Cancer 1998;83:1142-52.