

GEMCITABINE

Fourth-line salvage therapy for relapsed Hodgkin's and Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma
Only for use after funding approved by Trust/PCT – also consider discussion with tertiary centre as appropriate

This is a non-licensed use - prescriptions must be initiated by a Consultant.

Drug/Dose:

Schedule 1:

Gemcitabine 1000mg/m² IV Day 1, Day 8 and Day 15 of a 28 day cycle

or

Schedule 2:

Gemcitabine 1000mg/m² IV weekly for 7 weeks, then 1 week rest, then from Week 9 onwards, give weekly for 3 weeks in every 4 weeks, exactly as Schedule 1.

Administration: In 250ml 0.9% Sodium Chloride over 30 minutes

Frequency: 6 – 8 cycles, depending on response

Main Toxicities: myelosuppression; erythematous rash; flu-like syndrome (treat with paracetamol); peripheral oedema (mild –moderate & reversible); ovarian failure; infertility

Anti-emetics: mildly emetogenic

Extravasation: non-vesicant

Regular Investigations: FBC Prior to each gemcitabine dose
U&Es 4 weekly
LFTs 4 weekly
LDH 4 weekly, only if raised before treatment

Dose Modifications

Haematological Toxicity:

Neutrophils	Platelets	Gemcitabine Dose
> 1.0 x 10 ⁹ /l and	> 100 x 10 ⁹ /l	Give 100% dose
0.5 – 1.0 x 10 ⁹ /l or	50 – 100 x 10 ⁹ /l	Give 75% dose
< 0.5 x 10 ⁹ /l or	< 50 x 10 ⁹ /l	Defer 1 week

If a dose reduction to 75% has been made one week, then the dose should be increased to 100% on the subsequent cycles providing the FBC is within normal limits.

Reason for Update: Prepared for Network use	Approved by Chair of Network TSSG: Dr A Laurie
Version: 1	Date: 23.2.06
Supersedes: All previous versions	Review date: March 2008
Prepared by Oncology Pharmacist: S Taylor	Checked by Network Pharmacist: Jacky Turner

Renal Impairment: If CrCl < 30ml/minute, consider a dose reduction – clinical decision

Hepatic Impairment: If bilirubin > 27µmol/l, initiate treatment at 800mg/m² and increase only if tolerated.

Patient Information: CancerBACUP leaflet for Gemcitabine

References: Santoro et al; JCO (2000); 18: 2615 – 2619
Savage, DG et al; Ann Oncology (2000); 11: 595 – 597
Dumontet, C et al (2001); 113: 772 – 778
Fossa, A et al; JCO (1999); 17: 3786 – 3792
Zinzani, PL et al; JCO (2000); 18: 2603 - 2606

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