

## PACLITAXEL - WEEKLY

For recurrent endometrial and ovarian cancer – weekly administration not approved by NICE

Drug/Dosage:	Paclitaxel	60 - 80mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	D1
Administration:	In 250 - 500ml 0.9% Sodium Chloride over 1 hour. Administer with PVC-free giving set.			
Frequency:	Weekly for 18 weeks, given with a “rest” week after 6 doses, then after every 3 doses. Review weekly for first 3 weeks, then after every 3 doses.			
Main Toxicities:	Hypersensitivity reactions (infusion-related); Alopecia; Diarrhoea; Myelosuppression (mild); Neurotoxicity; Myalgia/Arthralgia			
Anti-emetics:	Mildly emetogenic			
Extravasation:	Paclitaxel is a vesicant			
Regular Investigations:	FBC	Weekly		
	U&Es	Weekly for 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 weeks, then 3 weekly		
	LFTs	Weekly for 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 weeks, then 3 weekly		
	CA 125	3 weekly, <b>only</b> if elevated prior to treatment		

Comments:

<u>Premedication:-</u>	Dexamethasone	8mg	IV	Give 30 minutes prior to administration
	Chlorphenamine	10mg	IV	
	Ranitidine	50mg	IV	

To minimise steroid side effects, the dose of dexamethasone may be reduced, and in some cases stopped<sup>1</sup>, if there has been no evidence of hypersensitivity.

### **Dose Modifications**

#### Haematological Toxicity

WBC < 3.0 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /l	Delay for 1 week. Repeat FBC and if within normal parameters, resume treatment.
or	
Neutrophils < 1.5 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /l	
or	
Platelets < 100 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /l	

#### Hepatic Impairment

A dose reduction should probably be given initially if impaired hepatic function. Due to lack of data, dose recommendations not available. If in doubt, contact the relevant Consultant.

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## Neuropathy

If Grade 1-2 peripheral neuropathy develops, consider a 20% dose reduction. If in doubt, discuss with Consultant.

## Myalgia / Arthralgia

Often co-exist, usually Grade 1 or Grade 2. Management consists of reassuring patients that it is self-limiting. Consider prescribing NSAIDs, but may be ineffective.

## References:

<sup>1</sup>Summerhayes and Daniels, Practical Chemotherapy, 2003

Abu-Rustum, N et al; Semin Oncol 1997; 24 (5 Supplement 15): S15-62 – S15 - 67

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