

Chemotherapy protocol

Drug regimen

Docetaxel

Indications for use

Metastatic breast cancer

In anthracycline resistant / refractory disease defined as:

- Relapse during / or within 12 months of adjuvant treatment with anthracyclines
- During or following treatment for metastatic disease

Regimen

N.B. Pre-medicate with 8mg Dexamethasone bd po for 3 days starting 24 hours pre-treatment.

DRUG	FLUID	ROUTE	TIME
Docetaxel 100 mg/m ²	250mls N/saline	IV	1 hr

Regimen to be given every 3 weeks for 6 cycles

Investigation prior to initiating treatment

U&Es, FBC, LFT, Weight

Cautions

Levels (see below)

Investigations and consultations prior to each cycle

FBC

Consultation – Each cycle

U&Es and LFTs

The liver function test may be retrospectively looked at (i.e. after the chemotherapy treatment) **unless** they are known to be abnormal then they need to be repeated the day before so that the results are available pre-chemotherapy.

Acceptable levels for treatment to proceed

(if outside these levels defer one week or contact consultant)

Neutrophils >1.5

Platelets >100

Bilirubin within normal limits

AST/ALT < 2.5 X ULN

If Neutrophils 1.2 – 1.5 contact consultant

Side Effects

Hair loss, prolonged neutropenia, allergic reactions, diarrhoea, neuropathy

Dose Modification Criteria

Consider 25% dose reduction:

- Febrile neutropenia
- Severe / prolonged neutropenia
- Grade 3 diarrhoea
- Grade 2 neuropathy
- Rising ALT / AST

Discontinue treatment:

- Life threatening sepsis
- Grade 4 toxicity

Specific Information on Administration

Patients must be prescribed a pre-medication of dexamethasone 8 mg bd po to be started 24 hours before treatment and continued for a total of 72 hours. This is to reduce the incidence of allergic reaction.

THIS PROTOCOL HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY DR HOGG, DESIGNATED LEAD CLINICIAN FOR BREAST CANCER

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PROTOCOL LIES WITH THE HEAD OF SERVICE

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