

Chemotherapy protocol

Drug regimen

Weekly paclitaxel

Indications for use

Metastatic breast cancer where taxanes are indicated (May be used in combination with trastuzumab)
Adjuvant treatment of breast cancer where docetaxel not tolerated or appropriate
Ovarian cancer

Regimen

Week 1

Pre-medicate 30 mins pre chemo with:

Chlorphenamine 10mg I.V. bolus
Ranitidine 50mg 50mls NaCl 0.9%
Dexamethasone 20mg 100mls NaCl 0.9%

For subsequent weeks reduce dexamethasone dose as below. If patient experiences any hypersensitivity reaction do not reduce the dose further but continue on the same dose. If severe reaction consider increasing pre-med dose back to 20mg.

Week 2 dexamethasone 8mg
Week 3 dexamethasone 4mg
Week 4 and subsequent no dexamethasone required

DRUG	FLUID	TIME	ROUTE
Paclitaxel 80mg/m ²	250mls 0.9% sodium chloride	1 hour	I.V

Regimen to be given weekly for an initial period of three months then review, continue to six months if appropriate. (12 doses in single agent adjuvant therapy, 9 doses following 3 cycles of FEC chemotherapy)

Investigation prior to initiating treatment

FBC
U&Es
LFTs
Calcium

Cautions

In the event of severe neuropathy or severe hypersensitivity reactions it may be necessary to discontinue paclitaxel.

Investigations and consultations prior to each cycle

FBC

Consultation needed prior to each cycle

U&Es and LFTs

The U&Es and LFTs may be retrospectively looked at (i.e. after the chemotherapy treatment) **unless** they are known to be abnormal, then they need to be checked the day before so that results are available pre-chemotherapy

Acceptable levels for treatment proceed

(If outside these levels delay one week or contact consultant)

Delay treatment 1 week or until platelets ≥ 100 and neutrophils ≥ 1.5

If Neutrophils 1 – 1.5 contact **consultant**

Side effects

Hypersensitivity reactions, myalgia, neuropathy, alopecia, nausea and vomiting, fatigue, bone marrow suppression

Dose Modification Criteria

Nil specific

Specific Information on Administration

Important – Use non PVC IV giving set with paclitaxel.

THIS PROTOCOL HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY DR YOUNG, CLINICIAN FOR BREAST CANCER.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PROTOCOL LIES WITH THE HEAD OF SERVICE

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