

ORAL ETOPOSIDE

INDICATION: Palliative therapy for non-Hodgkin's and Hodgkin's lymphoma

Prior to a course of treatment

- Check FBC. Patient should have adequate bone marrow reserve, i.e neutrophils > 1.0, platelets >75 unless cytopaenia is due to disease, e.g marrow infiltration, splenomegaly
- If appropriate discuss possibility of pregnancy with female patients and need for contraception with both male and female patients. Discuss risk of infertility - offer semen cryopreservation to male patients
- Written consent for course

Prior to each cycle

- Medical review of fitness for chemotherapy – exclude active infection, major changes in organ function
- Check FBC - neutrophils > 1.0 and platelets > 75 unless due to disease

Etoposide 50mg od * PO for 10 -14 days

Consider dose escalation to 100mg daily for 7 -10 days if tolerated

* 50mg tablets

Repeat every 21 – 28 days depending on FBC

Number of cycles according to response and patient tolerance

Anti-emetic prophylaxis

Usually not necessary but give patient a supply of metoclopramide

Other medications

Allopurinol 300mg od for 7-10 days with cycle 1

Etoposide Toxicities

Neutropenic sepsis

Nausea (mild)

Thrombocytopenia

Alopecia

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