

LSCCN HAEMATOLOGY PROTOCOLS

GEMCITABINE (SINGLE AGENT)

INDICATION: Palliative therapy for relapsed or refractory Hodgkin's and T-cell lymphoma

Prior to a course:

- Patient should have adequate bone marrow reserve before commencing treatment, i.e. neutrophils >1.0, platelets >50 unless due to marrow infiltration, splenomegaly.- *if not discuss with consultant*
- Use gemcitabine with caution if LFTs abnormal – *discuss with consultant & see dose modification*
- Written consent for course

Prior to each cycle

- Medical review of fitness for chemotherapy – exclude active infection, major changes in organ function
- Check FBC on day 1– neutrophils must be > 1.0 and platelets >50 prior to each cycle. *See dose modifications.*
- Check U&Es, creat, LFTs– *see dose modifications*

Day 1	Gemcitabine	1000mg/m ²	IV	in 250ml N saline over 30mins
Day 8	Gemcitabine	1000mg/m ²	IV	in 250ml N saline over 30mins

Repeat cycle every 21-28 days for 3 - 6 cycles

Prophylaxis for acute emesis	Give ondansetron 8mg PO 8-12-hrly
Prophylaxis for delayed emesis	Ondansetron 8 mg 8-12 hourly
Other medications	Allopurinol 300mg od for 5 days with cycle 1

Dose modification for haematological toxicity and infection

- If day 28 neutrophils <1.0 or platelets <50 Delay until these levels reached and proceed with GCSF prophylaxis starting day 9 or 25% dose reduction
- If day 28 counts remain low despite 50% dose reduction and/or GCSF *Discuss with consultant* – further treatment may be inappropriate
- If there is neutropenic sepsis *Discuss with consultant* - consider using GCSF prophylaxis starting day 9 or further treatment may be inappropriate
- If there is neutropenic sepsis despite GCSF Stop treatment

Dose modification for abnormal liver function

- If bilirubin >27µmol/L there is an increased risk of hepatic toxicity due to gemcitabine. Consider starting at a reduce dose of gemcitabine 800mg/m² and escalating according to tolerance.

Gemcitabine Toxicities

Neutropenic sepsis & thrombocytopenia	Nausea & vomiting (moderate)
Somnolence & fatigue	Amenorrhoea & infertility (offer semen cryopreservation)
Alopecia	Liver dysfunction
Rash & pruritus	Dyspnoea – pneumonitis
Haemolytic-uraemic syndrome	

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