

Systemic Anti Cancer Treatment Protocol

**Paclitaxel
Gynaecological Cancer**

**PROTOCOL REF: MPHAGYNPAC
(Version No: 1.1)**

Approved for use in:

- Second/ third line option for advanced ovarian cancers (weekly regimen)
- Metastatic endometrial carcinoma (weekly regimen)
- Metastatic cervical carcinoma (3 weekly or weekly regimen)
- Metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva (weekly regimen)

Dosage

3-weekly regimen for cervical cancer only

Drug	Dose	Route	Frequency
Paclitaxel	135mg/m ²	IV Infusion	21 day cycles, max. 6 cycles

Weekly regimen

Drug	Dose	Route	Frequency
Paclitaxel	80mg/m ²	IV Infusion	Days 1,8 and 15 of a 28 day cycle, until disease progression

Supportive Treatments:

Domperidone 10mg tablets, three times a day when required

Interactions

Antiepileptics (CYP 3A4 inducers)

Carboplatin can cause a decrease in phenytoin serum levels. This may lead to reappearance of seizures and may require an increase of phenytoin dosages.

Phenytoin, carbamazepine and phenobarbital increase the clearance of paclitaxel and increase its maximum tolerated dose.

Ciclosporin

Levels of paclitaxel increased after oral administration of ciclosporin.

Fluconazole/Ketoconazole (CYP3A4 inhibitors)

Paclitaxel levels may be increased

Quinine and Verapamil

Paclitaxel levels possibly increased.

Extravasation risk:

Paclitaxel - vesicant.

Administration

3 weekly regimen for cervical cancer only

Day	Drug	Dose	Route	Diluent and rate
1	Dexamethasone	20mg	IV bolus	30 minutes before chemotherapy
1	Ranitidine	50mg	IV bolus	30 minutes before paclitaxel
1	Chlorphenamine	10mg	IV bolus	30 minutes before paclitaxel
1	Paclitaxel	135mg/m²	IV Infusion	500mL sodium chloride 0.9% over 3 hours

Weekly regimen

Days	Drug	Dose	Route	Diluent and rate
1,8,15	Dexamethasone	8mg (reduce to 4mg for week 2)	IV bolus	30 minutes before chemotherapy
1,8,15	Ranitidine	50mg	IV bolus	30 minutes before chemotherapy
1,8,15	Chlorphenamine	10mg	IV bolus	30 minutes before chemotherapy
1,8,15	Paclitaxel	80mg/m²	IV Infusion	250mL sodium chloride 0.9% over 60 minutes

- Paclitaxel must be administered using a non-PVC giving set with a 0.22 micron filter.
- Paclitaxel in solution may show haziness which is attributed to the formulation of paclitaxel.
- Excessive shaking, agitation, or vibration of paclitaxel may induce precipitation and should be avoided
- Premedication treatment of chlorphenamine, dexamethasone and ranitidine is given prior to paclitaxel to reduce the risk of hypersensitivity. Paclitaxel reactions commonly occur within the first few minutes of starting the infusion most likely with the first two cycles. Carboplatin risk of hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis may increase with previous exposure to platinum therapy.

Hypersensitivity

As with all paclitaxel based chemotherapy, patients may experience allergic reaction during administration. The infusion should be stopped and the following should be administered.

- Hydrocortisone 100 to 200mg IV
- Chlorphenamine 10 mg IV

Refer to the Trusts Hypersensitivity Guidelines for further information.

It should be strongly noted that patients who have severe reactions should not be re-challenged

Main Toxicities

Haematological	Neutropenia, anaemia, thrombocytopenia,
Cardiac and Vascular disorders	Risk of bradycardia and hypotension is common
Gastrointestinal	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation, mucositis
Musculoskeletal	Arthralgia, myalgia
Nervous system	Paclitaxel: peripheral neuropathy is very common
Hepatobiliary	Elevation of liver transaminases, alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin.

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Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Alopecia Allergic skin rash frequently associated with pruritus
General disorders and administration site conditions	Malaise, fever, chills, urticaria, flu-like syndrome, rash, pruritus. Injection site reactions (including localised oedema, pain, erythema, induration, on occasion extravasation can result in cellulitis, skin fibrosis and skin necrosis)

Investigations

	Pre	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4	Cycle 5	Cycle 6	Ongoing
Medical Assessment	X				X			After cycles 3 and 6 then as per management plan
SACT Assessment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle
FBC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle
U&E & LFT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle
CrCl	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle
CA125*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle *For ovarian patients only
CT scan	X				X			After 3 and 6 cycles
Informed Consent	X							
PS recorded	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle
Toxicities documented	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle
Weight recorded	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Every cycle

Issue Date: 11 th January 2019 Review Date: January 2022	Page 5 of 8	Protocol reference: MPHAGYNPAC
Author: Gina Speed	Authorised by: Drug & Therapeutics Committee	Version No: 1.1

Dose Modifications and Toxicity Management:

Haematological Toxicity

Proceed on day 1 if-

Plt $\geq 100 \times 10^9/L$	ANC $\geq 1.0 \times 10^9/L$
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Delay 1 week on day 1 if-

Plt $\leq 99 \times 10^9/L$	ANC $\leq 0.9 \times 10^9/L$
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Proceed on day 8 and day 15 of weekly regimen if:

Plt $\geq 100 \times 10^9/L$	ANC $\geq 1.0 \times 10^9/L$
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Omit day 8 or day 15 if toxicity occurs – do not delay

Non-haematological Toxicity

Grading and Management of Toxicity

Toxicity should be grading according to the CTCAE v4.0 criteria. Following assessment treatment should be withheld for any toxicity until resolved to grade 0/1. For dose modification, follow the general guidance below and discuss with treating clinician.

	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
1st appearance	Interrupt treatment until resolved to grade 0/1, then continue at 100% of original dose with prophylaxis where possible	Interrupt treatment until resolved to grade 0/1, then continue at 75-80% of original dose	Discontinue treatment
2nd appearance	Interrupt treatment until resolved to grade 0/1, then continue at 75-80% of original dose	Interrupt treatment until resolved to grade 0/1, then continue at 50% of original dose	
3rd appearance	Interrupt treatment until resolved to grade 0/1, then continue at 50% of original dose	Discontinue treatment	
4th appearance	Discontinue treatment		

Peripheral Neuropathy

Paclitaxel

CTCAE grade 2 peripheral neuropathy: withhold paclitaxel until the neuropathy recovers to grade 1 then dose reduce to 75% of the original dose. Where the peripheral neuropathy is \geq grade 3 omit further paclitaxel.

Hepatic Impairment

Paclitaxel

Bilirubin / μ mol/l	Dose in mg/m ²	
< 26	135	Patients with severe hepatic impairment must not be treated with paclitaxel.
27-51	75	
>51	50	

Patients with hepatic impairment may be at increased risk of toxicity, particularly grade III-IV myelosuppression. There is no evidence that the toxicity of paclitaxel is increased when given as a 3-hour infusion to patients with mildly abnormal liver function. No data are available for patients with severe baseline cholestasis. Patients should be monitored closely for the development of profound myelosuppression.

If bilirubin < 1.25 x ULN and transaminase < 10 x ULN, dose at 100%

Renal Impairment

No dose reductions necessary.

References

www.medicines.org.uk

Dosage Adjustment for Cytotoxics in Hepatic Impairment. January 2009 UCLH - Dosage Adjustment for Cytotoxics in Hepatic Impairment (Version 3 - updated January 2009)

Issue Date: 11 th January 2019 Review Date: January 2022	Page 7 of 8	Protocol reference: MPHAGYNPAC
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Issue Date: 11 th January 2019 Review Date: January 2022	Page 8 of 8	Protocol reference: MPHAGYNPAC
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